Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-034
Friday
18 February 1994

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-034 *18 February 1994*

CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

British Foreign Secretary Meets Baltic Counterparts *[Tallinn Radio]* 1
Russian-Iranian Consultations on Karabakh End *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 16 Feb]* 1

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Interior Ministers Conclude Meeting, Sign Pacts *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
Kazakh Prime Minister Writes Chernomyrdin on CIS *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
Disagreements Over Ukrainian Status in Economic Union Noted *[RID]* 2
ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 18 Feb 3

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Air Force Will Not Participate in Bosnia Bombings *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Foreign Ministry Says Serbs Agree To Withdraw From Sarajevo *[Radio Rossii]* 4
Calls For U.S., EU Pressure *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
Yeltsin Urges Serbs to Withdraw Heavy Weapons From Sarajevo *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Sends Message to Italians *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Grachev, U.S. Secretary Perry Discuss Bosnia on Phone *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Vorontsov Comments on Sending Troops to Sarajevo *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Lavrov Believes Bombardment of Sarajevo Unnecessary *[Radio Rossii]* 6
Parliamentary Factions Condemn NATO 'Interference' *[INTERFAX]* 6
Rally Supporting Serbs at U.S. Consulate in St. Petersburg *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Army Paper Backs Churkin Stance on Bosnia *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 17 Feb]* 6
Stance on Bosnia Shows UN Becoming U.S. 'Instrument' *[PRAVDA 17 Feb]* 7
Serbian Role in Sarajevo Blast Doubted *[PRAVDA 17 Feb]* 8
Kozyrev in Athens, Comments on Bosnia *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Meets German Counterpart in Athens *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Major Says Queen's Visit To Seal Closer Ties *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Major's Visit Viewed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 17 Feb]* 10
WGF To Take All Ammunition From FRG *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
German General Urges Greater Military Cooperation *[Berlin DDP/ADN]* 11

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Yeltsin Still Recovering From Cold *[AFP]* 12
To Resume Work 21 Feb *[Radio Rossii]* 12
Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin Discuss Economic Situation *[Russian TV]* 12
Zhirinovskiy, Kobelev Announce Reconciliation *[Russian TV]* 12
Split in Party Questioned *[INTERFAX]* 12
Zhirinovskiy Previews Planned Foreign Trips *[INTERFAX]* 13
Trip To Turkey 'Tactical Diversion' *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 18 Feb]* 13
Former DPR Chairman Explains Resignation *[SEGODNYA 18 Feb]* 13
Yeltsin Signs Decree on Cesare Policy Council *[Radio Rossii]* 14
Tatar President Claims Broad Support for Treaty *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Shakhray Welcomes Treaty *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
Signing of Treaty Assessed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 17 Feb]* 15

Media Issues

Judicial Body Denounces Restrictions on Reporters *[ITAR-TASS]* 15

St. Petersburg To Air Italian TV *[KURANTY 18 Feb]* 16
Friction Between Media, Authorities Examined *[Russian TV]* 16

Economic Issues

Reform Results in 'Sharp Erosion' of Living Standard *[ITAR-TASS]* 17
Nuclear Plants Suffer 'Severe' Fuel Shortage *[ITAR-TASS]* 18

Military & Space Issues

Former Adviser Warns West To Open Military Markets *[Paris LE FIGARO 18 Feb]* 18
Ministries at Odds Over 1994 Army Funding *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 17 Feb]* 19
Defense Sector Blames Woes on Finance Ministry *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 17 Feb]* 19
Defense Industry on 'Verge of Collapse' *[Moscow TV]* 20
Defense Official Discusses Stance on Nuclear Safety *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 17 Feb]* ... 20
Officials Report on Navy's Nuclear Safety *[Russian TV]* 21
Raduga Communication Satellite Launched *[ITAR-TASS]* 21
Mir Orbital Station in Flight *[ITAR-TASS]* 22

Federal Assembly

Yeltsin To Address Both Parliament Chambers 24 Feb *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
State Duma Establishes Work Agenda *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Law on Deputy Status Approved in First Reading *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Duma Backs Georgia Treaty Ratification Postponement *[INTERFAX]* 23
Duma Adopts Decree on Media Coverage *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Duma 16 Feb Proceedings Reported *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 17 Feb]* 23

Regional Affairs

'Direct Protectorate' Recommended for Ingush-Ossetia *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
Buryatia's Health Minister Fired for Embezzlement *[ITAR-TASS]* 24
Komi Parliament Adopts Alternate Draft Constitution *[SEGODNYA 17 Feb]* 24
Local TV Station Begins Operation in Vladimir Oblast *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 16 Feb]* 24

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Kravchuk, France's Mitterrand Discuss Ties *[Kiev Radio]* 26
Crimea's Meshkov Gives News Conference on Moscow Trip
[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 17 Feb] 26
Comments on Preserving Unity With Russia *[UNIAR]* 26

National Affairs

Fuel Delivery Suspension Causes Problems for Chernobyl *[UNIAN]* 27
Official Says Power Stations Have Only 2-3 Days Fuel *[UNIAN]* 27
Cabinet of Ministers To Solve 'Nonpayments Crisis' *[UNIAN]* 27
Radetskyy Says Sevastopol To Remain Navy's Main Base *[UNIAR]* 28
Saburov Answers Questions on Crimean Ministerial Post *[UNIAN]* 28
Kravchuk Issues Edict on Foreign Observers at Elections *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 15 Feb]* 29
Minister Criticizes Tripartite Accord *[ZA VILNU UKRAYINU 9 Feb]* 29

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Premier Reported To Reshuffle Apparatus *[SEGODNYA 17 Feb]* 31
Hryb Outlines Position on Political System, Elections *[NARODNAYA GAZETA 15 Feb]* 31
Defense Ministry Denies Preparations To Fight Strikers *[VO SLAVU RODINY 15 Feb]* 32

Government Seen 'Reassuring Itself' Over Strike Outcome *[IZVESTIYA 17 Feb]* 32
Union Federation Leader on Stike Outcome *[Minsk Radio]* 33
Iraqi Fighter Planes Stranded Due to UN Embargo *[INTERFAX]* 33

Moldova

Foreign Minister on Russian Ties, Federation *[Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA 17 Feb]* 34
Snegur Gives Dniester Residents Special Voting Rights *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
Dniester Leader Approves of CSCE Recommendations *[ITAR-TASS]* 36

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev on 'Negative' U.S. Understanding of Iran *[Tehran TV]* 37
Ukrainian Delegation Holds Talks, Signs Document *[UNIAR]* 37

Tajikistan

Prime Minister on Ruble Zone, Other Topics *[PRAVDA 17 Feb]* 37
Samadov on 'Breakthrough' in Ties With Russia *[ITAR-TASS]* 38
Foreign Minister on Role of CIS Peacekeeping Forces *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
Three Servicemen Killed in Attack on Security Unit *[ITAR-TASS]* 39

Turkmenistan

Niyazov Resumes Work After Surgery in U.S. *[ITAR-TASS]* 39

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Karabakh Forces Reportedly Check Azerbaijani Advance *[SNARK]* 40
Two Azerbaijani Warplanes Shot Down *[Yerevan Radio]* 40

Azerbaijan

Gasanov, Georgia's Chikvaidze Discuss Collective Security *[TURAN]* 40
Defense Ministry Says Armenian Attacks Repulsed *[Baku Radio]* 40
Azerbaijanis Near Kelbadzhar Heights *[Baku International]* 40
Community Representatives Send Butrus-Ghali 'Cry for Help' *[PRAVDA 17 Feb]* 41
Baku Television, BBC To Sign Program Exchange Protocol *[Baku TV]* 41

Georgia

Shevardnadze Views Ways to Economic Recovery *[SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA 11 Feb]* 41
Gamsakhurdia's Body Moved to Groznyy *[ITAR-TASS]* 43

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Minister on Russian Troop Withdrawal 'Priority' *[BNS]* 44
Defense Commission Demands Israel Remove 'Unusable Weapons' *[Tallinn Radio]* 44

Latvia

Talks With Russia End; No Agreements Signed *[ITAR-TASS]* 44
Saeima Chairman Says No Plan To Isolate Russia *[BNS]* 45
Envoy to Russia Interviewed on Relations *[BNS]* 45

British Foreign Secretary Meets Baltic Counterparts

LD1602154594 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1500 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd met Baltic countries' foreign ministers in Riga. Urmas Loit provides the details.

[Begin recording] [Loit] Foreign Minister Juri Luik, what was most important about this meeting with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and your Baltic counterparts?

[Luik] The most important aspect was evidently the symbolic side of things. British Prime Minister John Major and Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd met the Russian leadership 15 February and it was seen as necessary to inform us of these talks. The fact that we are seen as partners who are to be taken seriously, that it is necessary to inform us and discuss matters with us—this is perhaps the most important aspect of the meeting.

We discussed here, behind closed doors, also bilateral relations between the countries. We discussed integration into Europe and our membership in the European Union. Britain promised help with free- trade talks. We have small problems there with agriculture and textiles. Britain, as one of the most experienced supporters of free trade, promised to put in a word for us. You have heard here, Britain will be helping us to build our army and helping with the setting up of the Baltic peacekeeping battalion. And so, we have discussed quite a number of bilateral and multipartite issues.

[Loit] Obviously you also discussed the Baltic countries' relations with Russia. What is the British attitude to some of the contradictions here?

[Luik] Well, Douglas Hurd emphasized in a very [word indistinct] manner that in talking about the Baltic countries we are talking about sovereign states who have full rights to decide whom they choose to be friends with and whom not, and whose army is on their territory and whose is not. Full support was given to our policy of [Russian] troop withdrawal. Douglas Hurd promised to keep a higher focus on this issue than hitherto in Britain, and so we had quite a constructive discussion about relations with Russia. [end recording]

Russian-Iranian Consultations on Karabakh End

PM1602172794 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Feb 94 p 3

["Own Information" report: "Russian-Iranian Consultations on Karabakh End"]

[Text] Russian-Iranian consultations on the settlement of the Karabakh conflict have ended in Moscow. V.N. Kazimirov, the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry's special envoy, and M. Bank, general director of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, expressed profound concern in connection with the major escalation of hostilities in and around Nagorno-Karabakh.

There was particular concern over the widening scale of combat actions, their ferocity, and the increasing bloodshed, which is making the conflict increasingly inhumane.

Both sides noted that the growing internationalization of the conflict is a great threat to the cause of peace and regional stability.

During the consultations it was admitted that a sound and long-term basis for a settlement can only realistically be established by relying on peaceful political methods and the sides' ability to reach a reasonable compromise.

The Russian side stressed that the chief priority is the achievement of an immediate cease-fire and the cessation of all combat actions, and the conclusion of the relevant agreement.

The participants in the consultations noted that Russia and Iran support the world community's efforts to settle the conflict. Being in direct proximity to and being committed to the settlement of the conflict, Russia and Iran have repeatedly put forward initiatives on its peaceful resolution and, maintaining constant contacts, will continue their efforts in this direction.

Interior Ministers Conclude Meeting, Sign Pacts

LD1702191594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1709 GMT 17 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow February 17 TASS—On Thursday, the interior ministers of the member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States concluded their two-day meeting by signing a series of agreements on cooperation. The meeting was attended by delegations from all the CIS countries, as well as an observer delegation from Latvia.

The Russian delegation was headed by Interior Minister Viktor Yerin, ITAR-TASS learned in the Russian Interior Ministry's public communications centre.

During their meetings, the ministers examined the effectiveness of cooperation between their respective interior ministries. In particular, they looked to strengthen their joint measures in the fight against organized crime.

Decisions were adopted concerning the bureau for the coordination of the fight against organized crime and other forms of dangerous crimes committed on CIS territory. This bureau was formed in accordance with the decision of the council of CIS heads of state from September 24, 1993, and will be located in Moscow. The interior ministers confirmed S. Rukhlyadev, an official from the Belarusian Interior Ministry, as director of the bureau. His deputy, from the Armenian Interior Ministry, will be R. Kara-Pogosyan.

In addition, official representatives signed an agreement on cooperation between internal ministries in the fight against organized crime.

Other agreements were signed on regulations for the extradition of suspected criminals and on police escorts for especially valuable or strategic cargoes being transported from one country to another.

According to the Russian Internal Ministry, it is planned to hold the next meeting in Uzbekistan.

Kazakh Prime Minister Writes Chernomyrdin on CIS

LD1702151394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1410 GMT 17 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kulagin]

[Text] Almaty February 17 TASS—Kazakh Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko sent a letter to Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin outlining his views on ways to strengthen the CIS economic union.

"The decisions adopted at the Ashgabat summit foster the hope for the development of integration processes in the commonwealth. The meeting confirmed the general understanding of the fact that coordinated activities will make it easier to resolve the protracted economic crisis. It is not incidental that all CIS countries announced their adherence to the economic union of the commonwealth," the letter said.

The Kazakh prime minister suggested discussing a set of urgent matters at the upcoming meetings of the CIS heads of state and heads of government to be held in March, in order to resolve the current crisis as soon as possible.

One of the major tasks is to step up work to establish a common customs zone and a free trade zone in the Commonwealth of Independent States. Tereshchenko believes it desirable to accelerate the establishment of an inter-state association of free trade.

In order to overcome the payment crisis and normalise payment and credit relations between CIS states, it is necessary to adopt measures engaging the interstate bank which was set up over a year ago but has not begun operation yet, Tereshchenko said. He called for establishing a CIS payment centre within the bank and reorganising it later into a currency union with a common currency.

Tereshchenko believes that for the CIS economic union to function normally, a coordinating body should be set up. He suggested Moscow as the seat of such a body.

"The adoption of decisions on all these questions will enable (us) to begin practical realisation of the idea of the economic union and reach a new level of relations within the CIS," the Kazakh premier said.

Tereshchenko stressed that the Coordinating and Consultative Committee of the commonwealth could work on these questions and prepare respective documents. He suggested postponing the meeting of the CIS heads of government until a later date or holding it simultaneously with the meeting of the CIS heads of state due to take place in Moscow on March 31, 1994.

Disagreements Over Ukrainian Status in Economic Union Noted

WS1702152894 Minsk RID in Russian 1303 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] At the CIS headquarters in Minsk, a group of experts has completed drafting an agreement on Ukraine's joining, as an associate member, the treaty on establishing the CIS economic union. The draft is to be submitted for consideration by the CIS Coordinative and Consultative Committee, which will hold its meeting in Moscow on 1 March. As Yevgeniy Gorelik, press secretary of the CIS Executive Committee, told an RID correspondent, the main controversies which arose during the drafting of the agreement concerned an article defining the status of Ukrainian representatives in the coordinative bodies of the economic union.

The Uzbek delegation insisted that Ukrainian experts and permanent representatives be entitled to only put forward their suggestions. The Ukrainian delegation,

which arrived in Minsk to participate in the project, proposed that it should be defined in one of the articles that decisions adopted by the CIS coordinative bodies be considered as recommendations with regard to Ukraine. The majority of participants in the meeting did not, however, accept this proposal. The last word in this dispute rests with the prime ministers and presidents who will chair sessions of the Council of CIS Leaders and Government Heads at the end of March, said Yevgeniy Gorelik.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 18 Feb

LD1802065794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0548 GMT 18 Feb 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 18 (ITAR-TASS)—The ROSSIYSKIE VESTI newspaper carries several articles on taxation in the Russian Federation under the general headline "All Suffer From Taxation Press, However Treasury is Empty".

Referring to the opinion of experts from the Russian Economics Ministry, the newspaper writes: "The government now collects only 60-65 per cent of all taxes due for payment, which is clearly below the average of other countries. We have to achieve the receipt of up to 80 per cent of taxes to the state budget".

In the opinion of specialists from the American Heritage fund, income taxes from working people should be cut. Russian Economics Minister Aleksandr Shokhin believes that "to introduce new taxes now means to aggravate conditions for economic activities and to increase mistrust of tax legislation".

The TRUD newspaper writes that the recent visits by Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik and Public Education Minister Yevgeniy Tkachenko to the Kuznetsk coal basin in Siberia somewhat defused the explosive situation there.

At the same time, the newspaper notes that the question on a strike by coal miners and other workers remains open in that area. For instance, 60 per cent of workers employed by light industry enterprises have nothing to do: warehouses are packed with ready-made goods, while trading firms prefer to buy imports.

Every third builder went on a forced leave: customers have no money to pay for the work done. "Some 20,000 projects stand partially built," the newspaper notes.

Appraising the work done by the cabinet of former Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar, prominent economist Nikolay Shmelev writes in the newspaper that "the reformers went too far". To change the situation in the country, it is necessary "to start, at long last, to conduct a stiff industrial policy", he claims.

The RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA newspaper writes on the same topic, noting that "the long-term programme for production of weaponry and the government financial support for the conversion of the munitions industry" remain a headache for the government.

According to the newspaper, it is unprofitable up to this time to fill government military orders: they are paid at ridiculously low prices.

The KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper claims that the explosive social and economic situation in Russia can be explained, among other things, by the fact that the government has no action programme.

The PRAVDA newspaper notes that the situation in the Russian economy is very difficult after two years of "shock therapy". "It would be an empty talk to speak about stabilisation in the country," the newspaper adds. According to PRAVDA, the course of Russian reforms "needs immediate adjustments".

The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper features an exclusive interview with Bundeswehr General Inspector Klaus Naumann who claims that the armed forces of Russia and Germany can cooperate in future. In his opinion, the two countries "play an important, if not decisive, role" in creating a system of European security.

The NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper writes about a spectre of a new cold war in connection with NATO's decision to use force if Bosnian Serbs do not withdraw heavy weaponry from the Sarajevo area.

"Russia, put before another difficult choice, tries to remain its own self," the newspaper writes. "The NATO ultimatum is declared 'illegitimate' and at variance with U.N. decisions.

The newspaper notes that the recent illness "has not weakened the political will of the Russian President who warned that 'some people try to resolve the Bosnian question without Russia. We shall not permit this'".

PRAVDA front-pages a report on fanning up anti-Russian sentiments in Estonia. It points to a recent "resolute protest" by the Estonian parliament against allegedly "rising imperialist trends in Russia's foreign policy".

Air Force Will Not Participate in Bosnia Bombings

LD1702164494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1721 GMT 17 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow, 17 Feb—Russia's Air Force will not take part in bombing Bosnia. This is in accord with the position adopted by Russia which has expressed its opposition to missile and bomb strikes against Bosnian Serbs. The ITAR-TASS correspondent was told today in the press center of the Air Force that the Russian Air Force Command considers that the Bosnian conflict must be resolved by political methods.

Russian military airmen consider that with modern aerial equipment it is difficult to achieve high precision bombing of artillery positions. In conditions of mountainous, broken terrain in former Yugoslavia, the effect of aerial bombing will be insignificant. The Russian Air Force Command, in particular, is worried that totally innocent people and the civilian population could suffer during the bombing.

The press center of the Russian Air Force rules out the possibility of any future participation by Russian Air Forces in the peacekeeping forces under the UN's aegis.

Foreign Ministry Says Serbs Agree To Withdraw From Sarajevo

LD1702180794 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] We have just received by fax a Russian Foreign Ministry statement. It says:

In recent days Russia has made additional efforts to give effect to its initiative on getting the blockade of Sarajevo removed and having the city handed over to the control of the UN. That initiative was put forward back at the 47th session of the General Assembly. We have been striving to implement this initiative by acting openly within the framework of Security Council resolutions.

This line is being continued by us also at the present time despite the grave exacerbation of the situation around Sarajevo for well-known reasons.

As a result of the steps undertaken by the Russian leadership and intense diplomatic work, this sustained and consistent line which rules out unilateral ultimatums has borne fruit.

In response to our appeal, the Bosnian Serbs at their assembly in Pale have taken a decision to withdraw their heavy armaments from the vicinity of Sarajevo.

We consider that this display of goodwill by one of the warring sides at a critical moment for a settlement will produce equally specific steps in return.

We call on the Bosnia Government without delay to place all its heavy armaments in the vicinity of Sarajevo under the control of the UN forces in accordance with the secretary general's plan, which he proposed in his letter of 10 February to the Security Council.

We also call on our partners in a Bosnian settlement, primarily the United States and the countries of the European Union, in the spirit of their statements on a preference for a political solution to the problem, to bring the necessary influence to bear on the Bosnian Government in order that it should cooperate with the UN as regards the total lifting of the siege of Sarajevo and its demilitarization.

At this crucial moment, it is extremely important to exclude the likelihood of any provocations and sabotage of this peace process. On this depends the fate not only of Sarajevo, but of the whole Bosnian settlement as well.

Once the siege of Sarajevo is lifted, the UN Security Council could, as we have suggested, proceed, as a matter of urgency, to examine ways of establishing a UN administrative directorate in the city, and also to examine measures to reinforce other dangerous areas on the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Increasing its concrete contribution towards ensuring a turn towards peace, Russia is ready to send a part of its military contingent, which is within the UN forces, to ensure verification of the implementation of the understandings on the lifting of the Sarajevo siege.

Calls For U.S., EU Pressure

LD1702170394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1643 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow, 17 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Foreign Ministry today issued a statement in which it calls on the United States and the countries of the European Union "to exert the necessary influence on the Bosnian Government in order to ensure that it cooperates with the United Nations in completely unblocking and demilitarizing Sarajevo."

The document notes that, as a result of the steps which have been undertaken by the Russian leadership, "the firm and consistent line, excluding unilateral ultimatums, has produced results." In response to an appeal from Russia, the Bosnian Serbs adopted a decision to withdraw their heavy weapons from the region of Sarajevo.

In this connection, the Russian Foreign Ministry calls on the Bosnian Government "without delay to place all its heavy weapons in the region of Sarajevo under the control of the UN forces."

Russia's Foreign Ministry considers that in addition to lifting the blockade from Sarajevo, the UN Security Council should "urgently begin searching for ways to establish UN administrative rule in the city, as well as

implement measures aimed at reinforcing other safety areas on the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina."

Russia also announces that it is ready to send part of its military contingent within the UN forces "on a mission of ensuring that the agreements on removing the blockade from Sarajevo are observed."

Yeltsin Urges Serbs to Withdraw Heavy Weapons From Sarajevo

LD1702180494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1723 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Belgrade, 17 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Russia's President B.N. Yeltsin today sent a message to S. Milosevic, president of the Republic of Serbia, and which is also addressed to R. Karadzic, other Serbian leaders, and the Serbian people.

The message contains Russia's request to the Serbs to withdraw their heavy weapons from Sarajevo in as short a time as possible in the interests of stopping the bloodshed, and expressing Russia's readiness to deploy its contingent in Sarajevo within the framework of the UN peacekeeping operation.

Yeltsin's message was handed over to S. Milosevic in Belgrade and to the Bosnian Serbs' leaders in Pale by Vitaliy Churkin, the Russian president's special envoy and Russian deputy foreign minister.

The Serbian leaders have accepted the Russian Federation's initiative with gratitude. R. Karadzic stated at a news press conference in Pale that the Bosnian Serbs will withdraw their heavy weapons within the next few days. At the same time, they count on the Muslim troops also halting all military actions in Sarajevo, and that the UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] will also keep their side of the bargain.

The Russian and Serbian sides expressed mutual hope that by solving the Sarajevo crisis they will help to end the war and to achieve a political settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Sends Message to Italians

LD1802021194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2337 GMT 17 Feb 94

[By Itar-Tass correspondent Sergey Startsev]

[Text] Rome, 18 Feb, TASS-- Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Thursday [17 February] sent a message to Italian Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, in which he told him about the efforts undertaken by Russian diplomats to unblock the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The document confirms that Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin, special envoy of the Russian president at the talks on the settlement of the Yugoslav conflict, has managed to get the Bosnian Serbs' consent to withdraw their heavy weapons from Sarajevo. The message also states readiness to deploy a Russian UN contingent, currently in the conflict zone, in the Bosnian capital.

According to sources close to the Italian Government, Rome expressed great interest in Boris Yeltsin's message. In particular, Russia's efforts aimed at achieving guarantees for the demilitarization of the zone around Sarajevo and putting it under international monitoring received high appreciation.

Grachev, U.S. Secretary Perry Discuss Bosnia on Phone

LD1702181794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1749 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow, 17 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Ways of achieving a peaceful resolution of the Bosnian crisis were today the subject of a telephone conversation between Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry. The conversation, according to the Russian Defense Ministry Information and Press Directorate, took place via the recently established direct telephone line linking the two countries' military departments.

The Directorate gave no details about the conversation.

Vorontsov Comments on Sending Troops to Sarajevo

LD1802011894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2021 GMT 17 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations February 17 TASS—The U.N. secretary general met yesterday Russia's permanent representative to the United Nations Yuliy Vorontsov who handed over to him a message by the Russian foreign minister concerning the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the spokesman said adding that he could not give any details of the confidential letter.

[Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian at 2338 GMT on 17 February adds the following: "After Yuliy Vorontsov handed over the message from the Russian president to the UN secretary general, he told journalists:

['"First of all, Russia has informed the UN secretary general that during our talks with the Serbs they promised to withdraw their artillery from present positions within two days. After that Russia expressed readiness, with the agreement of UN secretary general and the commander of the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to send 400 Russian assault troops, who are UNPROFOR soldiers from the Russian battalion now stationed in Croatia, into Sarajevo to separate the warring sides. The Serbs have agreed to withdraw voluntarily artillery from present positions, but they have also asked for there to be Russians among the UN forces in Sarajevo.'

["Yuliy Vorontsov noted that the Russian peacekeeping forces were ready to enter Sarajevo within two days."]

Lavrov Believes Bombardment of Sarajevo Unnecessary

LD1802092294 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] The Bosnian Serbs agreed to meet the demands to withdraw their heavy artillery outside the 20-km zone around Sarajevo and to allow the subunits of the Russian troops stationed in Croatia with the UN peacekeeping forces to monitor this process.

Commenting on this situation in a telephone interview with the news service, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov expressed the opinion that there will not be any bombardment of Sarajevo. He believes that, after the decision made by the Bosnian Serbs, the problem of an ultimatum has been completely removed and that after Sarajevo is unblocked it will be necessary to take prompt measures to secure positive results. To accomplish this, the Security Council should establish a UN administrative authority in Sarajevo, take measures to strengthen safety in other areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and resume talks in Geneva.

Touching on the reason Russia has been accused of holding a clearly-expressed pro-Serbian position, the Russian deputy foreign minister noted that, given many countries' unambiguous anti-Serbian position, Russia's position helped preserve the balance and provide equal rights to the participants in the conflict.

Parliamentary Factions Condemn NATO 'Interference'

LD1702143394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1135 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] "As a result of a hasty and unthoughtful policy" with respect to former Yugoslavia the European Community has appeared "on the brink of a widescale military conflict," says a joint statement of the parliamentary factions of the Russian Communist Party, the group Russian Way, and Agrarian Party of Russia adopted on Wednesday [16 February].

The statement points out that the announcement of the NATO ultimatum to the Bosnian Serbs with a threat to bomb their positions aggravates the Yugoslavian crisis still more. According to the authors of this document, the question concerns "an open interference" on the part of the NATO countries and the position of the Russian Foreign Ministry looks "unclear."

In order to overcome the conflict the deputies proposed to the Russian president and government to address the UN with an initiative to remove economic sanctions with respect to Yugoslavia and to prevent bombardment of the former Yugoslavia territory by using its right to a veto in the Security Council. In addition, the authors of this statement appealed to Viktor Chernomyrdin's government to render economic and humanitarian aid to Yugoslavia's peoples.

The Russian State Duma has been recommended to send a parliamentary delegation to Yugoslavia and to the conflict zone to examine the situation in the region.

Rally Supporting Serbs at U.S. Consulate in St. Petersburg

LD1802012594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2353 GMT 17 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent John Polishchuk]

[Text] St. Petersburg February 18 TASS—About fifty St. Petersburg residents gathered on Thursday night [17 February] outside the U.S. Consulate General here to express their support of Bosnian Serbs.

After demonstrating for half an hour with a megaphone, placards and icons near the consulate, the protesters made an attempt to present self-made transparancies to consulate officials, but were not admitted into the building. After that, the gathering peacefully dispersed.

Army Paper Backs Churkin Stance on Bosnia

PM1702125394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Feb 94 p 3

[Sergey Sidorov report: "Those Who Make Decisions Are Accountable for Them"]

[Text] It is intolerable that Russian soldiers should be sent to locations where their lives will be endangered as a result of decisions made without Russia's participation, Vitaliy Churkin, the Russian president's special spokesman on Yugoslavia, said in Zagreb with regard to the possible dispatch to Bosnia of the unit of Russian "blue helmets" stationed in Serb Krajina.

The order to transfer 400 servicemen (around one-third of the personnel of the Russian battalion) was given to battalion commander Colonel Sergey Voznesenskiy by the headquarters of the UN forces in Zagreb Monday without coordination with Moscow. Aside from the fact that there was a breach of normal procedure here, which presupposes consent to such measures on the part of the Russian leadership, French General Jean Cot, commander of the UN contingent in Yugoslavia, has acted improperly at the very least. On two counts, moreover.

Evidently the intention was to station the Russians in the Sarajevo region, where additional forces are now required—and at the moment when the NATO ultimatum deadline is about to expire. That is, were NATO to carry out its threatened air strikes on Bosnian Serb positions, Russian soldiers would be required to suffer the disastrous consequences of the punitive bombing. But, first, the decision on bombing raids was taken by NATO without prior consultation with Russia and, what is more, Moscow was told that NATO "has no intention

of being preached to." Second, France, Britain, and the United States have done everything they can to prevent the convening of the Security Council—as Russia has proposed—for the adoption of a special decision on the threats to bomb Bosnia. Therefore the Russian Defense and Foreign Ministries have quite justifiably forbidden the command of the Russian battalion to carry out the redeployment order. Evidently there is still serious talking to be done with our Western partners over future cooperation in peacekeeping operations.

Meanwhile, U.S. newspapers have reported that the Clinton administration indicated Tuesday that it will agree to a compromise that does not go as far as NATO's demand for the Bosnian Serbs' guns to be withdrawn from Sarajevo or placed under UN control by the end of the week. In the opinion of U.S. officials, some heavy artillery can stay on the hills above the Bosnian capital. However, the United States will insist on guarantees that these guns will not be fired.

According to reports from the Serbian part of Sarajevo, competitions have been held on Jahorina Hill in honor of the 10th anniversary of the Sarajevo Winter Olympics. Thus, the Bosnian Serbs have demonstrated their respect for the International Olympic Committee's call for a truce during the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer.

Stance on Bosnia Shows UN Becoming U.S. 'Instrument'

PM1702142994 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Feb 94 p 3

[Article by Professor Georgiy Pelisov: "The Metamorphosis of the United Nations"]

[Text] Moscow—The world public is alarmed by the tragedy in Sarajevo. U.S. President Bill Clinton is angry, UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali is indignant, and NATO is poised to put warplanes into the air. The real culprit has not been found but it is planned to punish the Serbs just as a warning, as it were.

You can understand the world public, and Bill Clinton, and Butrus-Ghali. The death of completely innocent people is, of course, an outrage and demands retribution, but only against those who are guilty of this crime against humanity. But we Russians cannot understand why the world public was not indignant at the tragedy in Russia 3-4 October 1993 when, according to the official figures, 145 people died and hundreds were injured during the firing on the House of the Soviets (the "White House"). The people responsible for this action, which was just as inhuman and criminal as the one in Sarajevo, have not been brought to justice even though the whole world knows who they are. Furthermore, they have received not only Russia's highest awards but also the applause of statesmen who imagine themselves the guardians of democracy.

One cannot help but notice the more than strange metamorphosis of the United Nations. Instead of performing a peacemaking, unifying function, it is being transformed right before our eyes into some kind of world policeman ready to punish and actually punishing not so much those who commit acts against peace and humanitarian principles but primarily those who have displeased the forces lobbying at UN headquarters. As evidence let us recall the bombing of Libya and the residential center of Baghdad and the military actions against opposition forces in Somalia undertaken under the international organization's flag by U.S. Army subunits. Decisions to carry out these and similar unlawful actions are most often made administratively without discussion by or the sanction of the Security Council. That is what the United Nations has done this time too.

There is another strange element in UN activity which can hardly be left without assessment. It is the fact that countries or, to be more accurate, the political forces which dominate them and which for the sake of their own ambitions are prepared to shed the blood of other peoples and even their own fellow countrymen and are actually doing so are going unpunished. Israel systematically bombs South Lebanon—and the United Nations does not even wag a threatening finger. Neither the world public nor the United Nations was disturbed when Turkey, a member of the United Nations and NATO, wiped the Kurdish town of Lice from the face of the earth in the space of a few hours on 22 October 1993.

It is quite well known how much mental energy, how many diplomatic efforts, and how much money the United Nations expended to enable the Jews scattered throughout the world at last to acquire their own statehood. But the United Nations is totally incapable of forcing Israel to respect the Palestinians' right to their own state. Nor is this organization particularly concerned about the fate of the Kurdish people, numbering almost 40 million—the world's first farmers—whose culture goes back many thousands of years. The Kurds' land is divided among Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Syria. The Kurds' desire to reunite and form their own state according to the law and the provisions of the UN Charter is viewed as a manifestation of terrorism and separatism and is being suppressed most harshly with the tacit connivance of the United Nations.

The impression is being created that the United Nations is moving away from its initially proclaimed principles of being an impartial world arbiter toward being the instrument of the policy of a group of countries headed by the United States. Whereas in the past the ambitious tendencies of that group and the United States were countered by the USSR and the socialist countries, now that counterbalance has been removed and scope for unlimited domination of the world has opened up before those who were used to such sway until 1945. The colonial system collapsed after the victory over fascism but it seems that neocolonialism is being reborn on a new basis under the blue flag of the United Nations and with the assistance of its army of "blue helmets."

Serbian Role in Sarajevo Blast Doubted

PM1702165594 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Feb 94 p 3

[Correspondent Vladimir Bolshakov report: "Before Something Irreparable Happens.... Are Western Democrats Really Capable of Stooping to Crimes Against Humanity? French General Pierre Gallois Asks"]

[Text] Paris, 16 Feb—These days official France is somewhat reminiscent of a hypnotized person. Domestic policy has been put on the back burner. All thoughts and discussions in both the ruling right-wing parties and the opposition are associated with Bosnia, or to be precise the NATO ultimatum to the Serbs. It seems that everything revolves around this. This situation involuntarily prompts many people to reflect on the situation's preprogrammed nature.

First of all, people here are pondering whether the NATO ultimatum is itself in France's national interests, and likewise Paris' entire policy in Bosnia and the way it forms a bloc against the Serbs exclusively with the Muslim side or more rarely with the Croatian side.

Second, alarm is also being aroused by Washington's attempts to supplant the United Nations with the NATO bloc and with its help to mete out punishment to the world's peoples in the name of a "new world order."

Third, every day there are more and more press items questioning the official version of the mortar attack on the market in Sarajevo.

General Pierre M. Gallois, the eminent French strategist, shares his thoughts with PRAVDA readers:

"NATO is now completely subordinate to the United States. The Atlantic alliance's military organization has become a most powerful instrument in establishing a 'new world order.' It is meant to punish and does not take the trouble to find out exactly who is really guilty.

"That was the case in June 1993, when the United States decided to 'punish' Iraq for 'attempting to assassinate President Bush.' B. Clinton sent cruise missiles to Baghdad even before the Iraqis' guilt had been proved. It was only later that the U.S. press admitted that there had been no attempt on Bush's life. But dozens of completely innocent people's lives had already been sacrificed to U.S. democracy.

"Washington and NATO Secretary General Woerner, a German, have just issued an ultimatum to the Serbs in order to punish them for the bloody massacre in Sarajevo, of which they are accusing only the Serbs. Without even waiting for the results of an investigation by a special commission.

"Something similar also occurred in Bosnia 27 May 1992, when the Serbs were accused of gunning down a peaceful bread line in Sarajevo. The Serbs were not guilty of this, but the investigating commission concealed the facts, including the fact that most of the people killed in this line were Serbs.

"Nevertheless, at the time this incident served as grounds to impose economic sanctions, as a result of which thousands of peaceful Serbian inhabitants who were just as completely innocent as those killed in that bread line suffered.

"What happened in the market in Markala is also strange in terms of both its presentation to the public and consequences. Just a single round from a mortar—a rather inaccurate weapon—could not, if fired from Serb positions, have hit a 40-by-30-meter [m] target the first time. Nobody could have seen a mortar shell in flight, as certain 'witnesses' claimed. Alas, all they could have seen was the result of the explosion, not the mortar shell itself. Finally, the haste with which Western powers hurried to adopt sanctions against the Serbs without even having convened a commission of investigation looks highly suspicious. It is no less suspicious than the adoption of sanctions after the events of 27 May 1992. The Serbs were not responsible for that crime, as was later proved.

"What does this conspiracy mean? Surely Western governments did not deliberately hurry to make fools of themselves? Or is the German mark so strong and the desire for oil so overwhelming that because of this Western democracies are capable of stooping to crimes against humanity? In addition, they have started using unworthy methods of warfare: shooting at their own troops and accusing the enemy of this, so that it is condemned by the public for doing this."

In his own way Admiral Jacques Lanxade, French Armed Forces chief of staff, supplements Gen. Gallois' analysis. Speaking at a seminar in Munich, he said that in Bosnia it is impermissible to adopt any one side in such a complex conflict. "I also do not believe," he said, "that we can declare war on any one of the sides." Disagreeing with "simple solutions," the admiral spoke out against, in particular, calls for a unilateral lifting of the arms embargo in favor of the Bosnian Muslims. He noted that most of the 18 French soldiers killed and 300 wounded in Bosnia have died at the hands of Muslims and not Serbs. But these facts are being carefully concealed, and the press practically kept quiet about Adm. Lanxade's speech; only L'HUMANITE risked quoting it.

Material sent to PRAVDA's Paris office from Switzerland notes that, according to an analysis by certain military specialists, what was used at the market in Markala was not a mortar shell but a new type of antipersonnel ball-bearing mine developed at the "Slavko Rodic" Bosnian military plant in the city of Bugojno and taken into the Bosnian Muslim army's arsenal. This mine contains up to 5,000 steel balls 4-5 mm in diameter and has a casualty radius of 60-80 m. The nature of the effect on people and buildings confirms this. Especially as not a single mortar shell in the Yugoslav Army arsenal could have had this effect.

Another curious detail: The market in Markala is mainly Serbian and Croatian; it is practically not visited by Muslims. Even on the newsreel it could be observed that those killed at the market were buried in a Christian cemetery with crosses and not in a Muslim cemetery. Hence the Swiss authors conclude that this was a repetition of the provocation against Serbs based on the method of 27 May 1992.

There is a good Russian proverb: "Look before you leap." Russia, in the name of its historical friendship with Serbs and its common fate with them, must resolutely advise the world community to act according to this very principle in Bosnia. Before something irreparable happens in the Balkans. Before hundreds if not thousands of innocent people are killed. After all, the conflagration of a world war has erupted there twice already. A third must not be allowed.

Kozyrev in Athens, Comments on Bosnia

LD1702203294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1900 GMT 17 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Vladimir Malyshev and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Athens, 17 Feb—Since the Russian Federation is a permanent member of the Security Council, Russia and the United Nations have nothing in common with NATO's ultimatum to the Bosnian Serbs, since they took no part in the adoption of that decision. This was stated by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to an ITAR-TASS correspondent upon his arrival today in Athens. Russia, A. Kozyrev confirmed, is a permanent member of the Security Council, and the United Nations cannot make such a decision without us.

According to the minister, he has the impression that "we were not, at any rate, fully informed about the content of the NATO decision." "But we will not allow ourselves, no matter how much anyone might try, to be deflected from our chosen course toward a strategic partnership, about which there was a conversation quite recently between the presidents of Russia and the United States in Moscow, or to be deterred from the efforts that Russia has been making for the past 2-3 weeks in order to promote its initiative in Bosnia. The initiative, A. Kozyrev indicated, is aimed at strengthening the security zones, including, above all, the security zone in Sarajevo, and the withdrawal of the sides' armed formations and heavy weapons.

Vitaliy Churkin, who is now the Russian President's special representative, the Russian minister continued, is personally in the conflict zone and is conducting intricate talks. In the minister's opinion, it is necessary to follow most attentively the course of these talks and to listen to the news coming from there, since it is precisely at these talks that the question of lifting the siege of Sarajevo and removing armaments is really being tackled.

Speaking about relations between Russia and the Republic of Macedonia, the minister declared that Russia was ready, in principle, to make its good offices available to both states—Greece and the Republic of Macedonia—so as to help them find mutually acceptable solutions to the problems of relations between them.

Meets German Counterpart in Athens

LD1702204694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2019 GMT 17 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Malyshev and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Athens February 17 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrived on Thursday night [17 February] to Athens, the first point of his eight-day tour. Upon arrival, he immediately met his German counterpart Klaus Kinkel to discuss preparations for the Russian president's visit to Germany scheduled for this coming spring, as well as a settlement of the Bosnian conflict.

The Bosnian settlement and relations with the European Union (EU) are to be in the focus of the upcoming political consultations between Kozyrev and the so-called EC "Troika" consisting of the foreign ministers of Belgium, Greece and Germany—the former, present and future EC chairs. The Athens meeting is initiated by Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias.

The programme of Kozyrev's visit also provides for a meeting with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, talks on bilateral Russian- Greek relations and a meeting with the Cyprian foreign minister.

After visiting Greece, the Russian foreign minister is to make a tour of East European states entering the so-called Visegrad group.

The first country to be visited is the Czech Republic where Kozyrev is expected to continue a diologue on various aspects of Russia's relations with these countries and to look into the progress of implementation of the earlier signed agreements. The sides will also exchange opinions on the current situation in Europe, specifically on problems of conflict settlements, above all in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and on a new structure of European security.

While in Krakow, Poland, Kozyrev is to attend a Russian-Polish conference on cooperation, "Partnership Under New Conditions".

Major Says Queen's Visit To Seal Closer Ties

LD1702141394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1335 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow February 17 ITAR-TASS—In closing his official visit to Russia the British prime-minister, Mr John Major said, "We have been considering for some time the possibility of the queen visiting Russia. Her Majesty is keen to do it and I believe it is a very good

idea. The Russians have now had democratic elections and have a democratically elected president. Now seems an appropriate time to proceed. It may happen as early as this autumn but final details are not yet arranged."

Asked what Britain hoped to achieve with the visit by the queen, Major replied: "The relationship between the United Kingdom and Russia has been getting closer over some time. I think that will set the seal on the much closer relationship we now have." he added that it will be "the first visit for a very long time, it may even be the first visit ever."

In response to a question about whether the queen will be seeing more than Moscow, Major said, "It is not yet clear how much she will see but I would think certainly more than Moscow. She is keen to make this visit."

"Her Majesty is one of the finest ambassadors the United Kingdom has ever had. I think from that point of view it is highly desirable that she should visit Russia," John Major said.

Major's Visit Viewed

PM1702141594 Mosc[illegible]ASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Feb 94 p [illegible]

[Mikhail Pogorelyy article: "Optimism and Caution Voiced During John Major's Visit to Moscow"]

[Text] Statements by Russian and British leaders indicate that relations between the two countries are on the up and are cause for satisfaction on both sides. This primarily applies to the economy and trade. Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin pointed out during a meeting with his British counterpart John Major, who is paying an official visit to our country, that according to last year's results Britain was third in Western trade with Russia. Neither side intends to rest on its laurels. During the British delegation's visit to Moscow they discussed plans to step up cooperation in the field of fuel and energy and communications, as well as in education, science, and culture.

Such an important avenue of our cooperation as British firms' involvement in implementing the privatization program in Russia will be "inspected" by John Major in Nizhniy Novgorod, which he is to visit after Moscow 16 February. It is there that the practical aid that British capital has afforded the oblast administration's efforts is most palpable.

The day before in Moscow's Kremlin a symbolic line was drawn under the period of hostility between our states, a period which for several years now has effectively been at an end. The Russian president and Britain's prime minister signed a joint statement on nontargeting of their strategic nuclear weapons against one another. During the delegations' talks in the Kremlin it was also pointed out that military cooperation between our states gratifies the two countries' leaders. However, as far as developing this cooperation is concerned, the sides have at the moment confined themselves to a fairly cautious "agreement in principle" that Russian and British Army subunits should hold a series of joint exercises from early 1995 on both Russian and British territory.

The politicians were also cautious in their statements on the military-political aspects of our relations during a meeting at the Russian Defense Ministry in the afternoon of 15 February. Russian Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev received British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. In the opinion of Russia's defense minister, it was noted at this meeting that the "Partnership for Peace" principle proposed by NATO is a good, attractive principle. However, when talk turns to putting this into practice, it is obvious that the concrete programs for implementing this partnership are currently at the development stage.

John Major voiced a fairly optimistic opinion of the results of his discussion of the Bosnian crisis with Russia's leaders, noting the Russian-British (in this case also read NATO) mutual understanding "on many important aspects of a settlement to the conflict." President Yeltsin was more restrained in his opinions, saying that "some people are trying to resolve the Bosnian question without Russia's involvement. We will not allow that." It is easy to guess that the NATO military-political leadership is the unnamed "some people." Evidently one of the aims of John Major's visit was to try to win Russia over to NATO positions, secure its consent to the planned troop operation in Sarajevo, and thus invite Russia to take part in that resolution of the Bosnian conflict. However, both President Yeltsin and Premier Chernomyrdin clearly told the British premier that Russia has its own view of how the conflict should be resolved, namely that peace can only be secured in Bosnia via negotiation.

On the whole the British premier's visit to Russia clearly showed that Britain and Russia are profoundly committed to developing a mutually beneficial partnership and establishing the kind of relations that may indeed become partnership relations in the near future, as Boris Yeltsin suggested during his visit to London.

WGF To Take All Ammunition From FRG

LD1702232194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1836 GMT 17 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Leonid Vorontsov]

[Text] Berlin, 17 Feb—The press center of the Western Group of Forces [WGF] has denied rumors appearing in the German press to the effect that, after the Russian troops withdraw, some of the ammunition belonging to them may remain in Germany.

Citing information from the Mixed Russian-German Commission, the WGF press center said today that, over the past three years, 580,400 tonnes of ammunition belonging to the WGF has been removed from German territory, and a further 81,040 tonnes were used up

during that time during military training. As of 1 January this year, 15,560tonnes of ammunition remains in the possession of the WGF, which tallies with the envisaged plan.

Colonel General Matvey Burlakov, co-chairman of the Russian section of the Mixed Commission and WGF commander in chief, assured the German side back in mid-January that, by the time the troop withdrawal is complete, the remaining ammunition would be fully removed from German territory.

The WGF press center also rejected speculation over the norms for the expenditure of ammunition on military training. Each army has its own military training methods, so that comparing ammunition expenditure norms for these purposes in different armies would be inappropriate.

In the current treaties, the intensity and military training methods of the Russian troops who are still on German territory are not under discussion. They are exclusively an internal matter for the WGF command, a press center announcement says.

German General Urges Greater Military Cooperation

LD1802104694 Berlin DDP/ADN in German 0942 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow (DDP/ADN)—Klaus Naumann, chief of general staff of the Bundeswehr, believes cooperation between the German and Russian military is vital. Both countries play "a major, if not decisive role" in the creation of a European security system, Naumann said in an interview with (the Friday edition of) the Moscow army newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. Naumann does not rule out the joint deployment of German and Russian peace troops in UN missions.

Naumann voices the view that blame should not be apportioned to one side only in the conflict in Bosnia. He hopes all the warring parties will comply with the NATO ultimatum.

Naumann has been on a four-day visit to Russia this week, during which he met Defense Minister Pavel Grachev.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Still Recovering From Cold

AU1702174194 Paris AFP in English 1728 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow, Feb 17 (AFP)—President Boris Yeltsin has returned to his dacha outside Moscow to recover from a cold after briefly coming to Moscow to meet British Prime Minister John Major, a spokesman said Thursday.

Yeltsin, 63, interrupted a week's rest on Tuesday [15 February] to meet with Major, but then returned Wednesday to his residence in Zavidovo, about 80 kilometers (50 miles) north of Moscow, where he was still resting Thursday, spokesman Dimitriy Shevchenko told AFP.

"The president is suffering from a cold, nothing more," the spokesman said, adding that any "political speculation" about his health was "unpatriotic."

Yeltsin apparently caught cold on February 3, during an official visit to Georgia. He rescheduled his budget statement to parliament, originally due on Friday, for February 24.

His ill health came at a time of high diplomatic tensions over NATO's threat to bomb Bosnian Serbs if they do not pull back their heavy weapons from Sarajevo by midnight GMT Sunday. Russia opposes the ultimatum.

Last week, U.S. President Bill Clinton tried unsuccessfully for two days to reach Yeltsin at his dacha to discuss the crisis. Washington blamed the failed communications on "technical" problems. The two men finally talked on Friday.

To Resume Work 21 Feb

LD1802145494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Excerpt] Our correspondent has learned from circles close to the Russian president's administration that after being treated for a cold and completing a period of convalescence, Boris Yeltsin will resume his normal duties on Monday, 21 February. [passage omitted]

Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin Discuss Economic Situation

LD1702172794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 17 Feb 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A meeting took place today between Boris Yeltsin and Government Chairman Viktor Chernomyrdin at the Russian president's country residence. They exchanged opinions on the state of the Russian economy, the progress of economic reforms, and the implementation of social programs in light of preparing the president's annual message, and his speech to the deputies of the Federal Assembly on 24 February, as envisaged by the Constitution, and in connection with preparations for an expanded sitting of the government on 25 February.

Particular attention was paid to the problems of drawing up the federal budget for the current year and to ensuring finance for various sectors of the national economy.

Some structural and cadre issues were also discussed regarding a number of ministries and departments, and measures aimed at creating necessary conditions for the effective work of the State Duma. Their personal schedules were also coordinated.

Zhirinovskiy, Kobelev Announce Reconciliation

LD1702224094 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 17 Feb 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and Viktor Kobelev, the second most influential person in the Liberal Democratic Party [LDPR], today announced their reconciliation in Duma corridors. Yesterday Kobelev announced his resignation from the LDPR faction. Kobelev and Zhirinovskiy recognize that they have insignificant ideological disagreements, but have confirmed their readiness to cooperate in the future.

Split in Party Questioned

LD1702163794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1437 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] The recent scandal in the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) group in the State Duma, the lower house of the Russian parliament, was a put-up job, the party leadership said.

LDP leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and two members of the party's State Duma group, Viktor Kobelev and Aleksandr Vengerovskiy, told reporters on Thursday that Wednesday's stated resignation of Kobelev from the LDP group in the lower house had been a stratagem to reveal "dissenters" within the party and security services' machinations.

"We have never made it a secret that intelligence services, including the Russian ones, are taking systematic steps against the LDP and other patriotic parties," said Vengerovskiy, deputy speaker of the State Duma.

He said that, aware of intelligence services' plans to "split" the LDP at its next congress, scheduled for April 2, 1994, the party leadership had resorted to a ploy "to reveal the possible sources of a split, all the people [that might cause it] and their contacts."

Zhirinovsky said that now "everything was OK." in the party and its parliamentary group, while "some of the intelligence services will receive no bonus payments for February."

Kobelev said he had "minor ideological disagreements" with Zhirinovskiy, taking a "milder position" than the party leader. As "the number-two person in the party," he would be meeting Zhirinovskiy more often now, he said.

Zhirinovskiy said the maneuver had made it possible to expose "secret agents" in the central bodies of the party, and in its regional organizations in Krasnoyarsk territory, St. Petersburg and Vologda. As a result, some of the party's senior officers in the LDP, whose total membership he puts at 120,000-150,000, were fired, he said.

He said that, following the party's victory at the parliamentary election, which came as a surprise to the whole world, "the intelligence services of all countries are concerned about the activities of the party" and demand information about it.

Zhirinovskiy Previews Planned Foreign Trips

LD1702192894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1628 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Leader of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, confirmed in an interview on Thursday that he would go to a 3-day visit to Turkey on February 18. According to him, he has been invited by some Turkish business companies and the Turkish newspaper SABBATH.

The LDP leader also announced that he had quite a number of invitations from abroad, for instance, from Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland. However, he planned to pay most of his attention to visits to Russian constituencies.

Commenting on the refusal of the Spanish government to give him the entry visa, the LDP leader pointed out that the government had violated human rights. He repeated that he was to go to Spain under an invitation from the Spanish TV which had intended to interview him on television.

According to Zhirinovskiy, the move of the Spanish government was due to its "pro-American" position. Zhirinovskiy said that U.S. President Bill Clinton had wanted to meet the LDP leader during his visit to Moscow. However, the invitation was not in conformity with the appropriate order and was sent not personally to Zhirinovskiy but to the whole party. That is why just a rank-and-file LDP member went to the reception.

Zhirinovskiy said that the information that the U.S. President had expressed no desire to meet him was "misinformation" and that he had been waited for in the U.S. embassy. According to the LDP leader, the person who did not register the invitation to the reception in the appropriate order was punished.

Zhirinovskiy also announced that British Prime Minister John Major had met one of the LDP leaders, the State Duma's Vice Speaker, Aleksandr Vengerovskiy, during his recent visit to Moscow. Aleksandr Vengerovskiy added that he would meet U.S. ambassador Thomas Pickering on the very day.

Trip To Turkey 'Tactical Diversion'

PM1802143594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 18-21 Feb 94 p 2

[Article by Azer Mursaliyev: "Bombs Dropped on Sarajevo Could Explode in the Kremlin"]

[Text] The NATO ultimatum to the Bosnian Serbs expires on the night of 20-21 February. Unless the Serbian armed formations' siege of Sarajevo is lifted, NATO aircraft already assembled in the combat zone will deliver the first strikes against Serbian positions at 0100 on 21 February.

The paradox is that the Sarajevo events will affect Bosnia least of all. They will have repercussions far beyond the confines of the former Yugoslavia, like the shot that was fired in that same city 80 years ago, in fact. Air strikes on Bosnia are unlikely to lead to the swift establishment of peace or to a change in the military balance in the region. In fact, they are more likely to provoke a further escalation of the conflict and intensify the militarist mood in the Serbian community.

But irrespective of whether the bombing takes place or not, the ultimatum has already dealt a mighty blow to the authority of Yeltsin and the westernizing wing of the Russian establishment within the country. Bombs dropped in the vicinity of Sarajevo could well blow up the Kremlin.

In this connection it is curious that the chief opponent of Russian foreign policy at the moment, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, who probably stands to reap all the political benefits after 21 February, is unexpectedly off to...Turkey on 18 February. At any rate, The Turkish Embassy in Moscow has issued him and 15 members of his cohorts with visas. V. Zhirinovskiy intends to spend four days in the country, which figures strongly in his geopolitical designs. That is, V. Zhirinovskiy will be in the enemy's lair (Ankara is known to be a most consistent and active advocate of air strikes against the Bosnian Serbs' positions) when the ultimatum expires.

What is this: an attempt to gain more than the maximum number of points, or a tactical diversion to screen an imminent attack on Yeltsin?

Former DPR Chairman Explains Resignation

MK1802113094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 18 Feb 94 p 2

[Yelena Tregubova report under the "Party Activists" rubric: "Rutskoy 'Presidential Party' Being Created? 'Travkinites-Motorists' May Bury the Democratic Party of Russia"]

[Text] Valeriy Khomyakov, chairman of the board of the Democratic Party of Russia [DPR] (Travkin's party), who handed in his resignation the other day, has stated that one reason for such a step had been some sort of "economic" differences with Travkinites who have seats in the Duma. Asked for by regional party activists, Valeriy Khomyakov gave the names of Democratic Party of Russia men in the Duma who had voted for perks for deputies: Six members of the party, including Stanislav Govorukhin, voted for the provision of chauffeured cars for all deputies, something "even the Supreme Soviet did not venture to do."

According to his lights, during the party congress on 19 February, Nikolay Travkin intends to alter the organization's structure and to distribute all key party positions among the "motorists" [avtolyubiteli]—members of the parliament faction. Such shakeups at the party "top," Valeriy Khomyakov thinks, may result in that the relatively numerous regional structure of the Democratic Party of Russia would "crumble," and in such an event there is no knowing if the party would last until the next elections.

A certain part of the Democratic Party of Russia, in Mr. Khomyakov's words, is already turning to "Shakhray's party," another to "Gaydar's union."

As for Valeriy Khomyakov, he still ranks himself among Democratic Party of Russia members. He admitted, however, to already "having been offered to work together" with the "New Alliance" movement, now being created, which gambles on support from Aleksandr Rutskoy as future president. Nikolay Travkin's loyal comrade in arms, however, is deterred by the fact that, with the exception of Valeriy Zorkin, Aleksandr Tsipko, and Oleg Rumyantsev, "there are no outstanding leaders." Besides, Khomyakov, "an experienced party builder," is positive that "it would take several tens of billions of rubles just to get Rutskoy going," and the organizers have no other choice but to hope that "Aleksandr Tsipko of the Gorbachev Fund may not have joined the alliance for nothing, and that he has some commission from Mikhail Sergeyevich."

Yeltsin Signs Decree on Cadre Policy Council

LD1702210594 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Russia's President Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree confirming the composition of the Council for Cadre Policy under the Russian head of state. It will consist of 17 people, including First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets; Presidential Administration Chief Sergey Filatov; Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko; Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev; and Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov.

By another decree, the president appointed Boris Tyulkov his representative in Omsk Oblast.

Tatar President Claims Broad Support for Treaty

LD1802095094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0918 GMT 18 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Sorokin]

[Text] Kazan February 18 TASS—"The treaty between Russia and Tatarstan is getting nationwide support in our republic," Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev told a press conference here on Thursday evening.

Shaymiyev said he was receiving numerous telegrams and phone calls from representatives of Tatar diasporas in various regions of Russia and in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). They note that the Tatar population there was faced with certain problems and had definite fears, which have now been dispelled. At the same time, the Tatar president said he was disturbed by the fact that "feeble voices", as he put it, have appeared in the Russian State Duma and in Tatarstan, protesting against the treaty. Such people, in his opinion, are coming out not only against this historical document, but also against the peoples of Russia and Tatarstan.

Replying to those who demand self-isolation, President Shaymiyev said: "Sovereignty means self-restriction. It is not without reason that the former members of the Soviet Union, which have gained sovereignty, are now voluntarily restricting it and asking to be admitted to the CIS. Objective factors call for economic and political integration. The main task is to safeguard civil peace and tranquility in the republic and to concentrate all the available forces on construction. The first action will be to actively take part in the repeated elections to the Russian parliament, which will be held in Tatarstan on March 13. [no closing quotation marks as received]

Shakhray Welcomes Treaty

LD1802103794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1016 GMT 18 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow February 18 TASS—Russian Nationalities Minister Sergey Shakhray welcomed the treaty signed by Russia with its self-style Republic of Tatarstan saying that it "ends a dangerous political crisis and the threat of an interethnic conflict" between Russians and Tatars.

Shakhray tried to dispell fears of conservative lawmakers that the treaty may ruin the federative structure of the country and is an infringement on its territorial intergrity.

The fact that Tatarstan had agreed to hold new parliamentary elections to the Russian parliament "is the recognition of the Russian sovereignty on the territory of the Republic of Tatarstan, as well as that Russian laws are acting there", he told lawmakers on Friday adding that "accusations of separatism against Tatarstan had also been lifted".

December 12 elections in Tatarstan failed mostly because of the opposition of its leadership to them. However, Russia and Tatarstan then reached a compromise that the federation agrees to sign a bilateral treaty with its republic, on which the latter insisted, while Tatarstan's leadership would hold new elections to the parliament.

The signing of the treaty became possible after the sides dropped their political and national ambitions and switched to concrete agreements to settle the disputes, according to Shakhray. It turned out that "it is possible to evade political tensions at negotiations", Shakhray said. The treaty does not raise the status of Tatarstan, he added.

"Relations by agreements (between Russia and Tatarstan) is a mechanism of self-tuning of the Russian Federation, while federation for Russia is a way of democratic organisation of society which is the only possible way of the development of the multi-national people of Russia without a crisis", Shakhray stressed.

Signing of Treaty Assessed

PM1702155794 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Feb 94 p 3

[Vladimir Gavrilenko commentary under the "Postscript: Events and Commentaries" rubric: "Kazan Has 'United' With Moscow Once Again, This Time on the Basis of Two Constitutions and the Treaty on the Demarcation of Areas of Responsibility and Powers"]

[Text] It is three years since Tatarstan declared its sovereignty. The whole period since then has been dominated by a single fundamental question: "Is Tatarstan part of Russia or not?" And all that time Kazan has issued one and the same answer, albeit with variations: The question of leaving or entering the Federation is not under discussion. Mintimer Shaymiyev, president of the Republic of Tatarstan, has expended considerable effort and time trying to explain to worried Russians that this is a question not of the republic's flight from the Russian Federation but of a change in its status and a precise demarcation of spheres of responsibility and influence. But within Russia.

Tatarstan's aspiration was somewhat hard to understand in Russia. Distrust gave way to suspicion, which in turn led to a desire to sort things out.... This slow-moving crisis in relations between Kazan and Moscow with uncertain prospects in the future forced the Russian Federation leadership to decide do something. Then came the failure of the second all-Russia referendum in Tatarstan and the elections to the Federal Assembly. And the realization dawned that it would be easier and more beneficial to negotiate with Kazan.

Now the treaty "On the Demarcation of Areas of Responsibility and the Mutual Delegation of Powers Between Organs of State Power in the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tatarstan" has been signed. Of course, Kazan had to pay a price for the signing of this treaty. For example, the renunciation of the words "sovereign state" and "subject of international law." This also affected taxes: It had to abandon its former desire for a single-channel system and accept the general federal scheme. The important thing for us is that questions of defense remain in Russia's control.

When speaking about the treaty, Russian President Boris Yeltsin stressed that it "enshrines the really existing unity of the Russian state." And that is the main thing now. Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev declared in his turn that the treaty "affirms a new model of relations founded on the principles of law and justice." And he echoed Boris Yeltsin's words: "The treaty meets the urgent need to preserve integrity and stability in the Russian Federation." I am bound to recall the words of Sergey Shakhray, Russian Federation minister for national and regional policy: "The object of the treaty," he said, "is not the special status of Tatarstan but the sphere of legal regulation...." And he added: "Regional policy will be developed on such principles as the equality of the components of the Russian Federation and the unity of the economic area." In other words, the minister was letting it be known that "the process has begun." Who is next in line? In all probability it will be Chechnya, where life in a state of legal chaos is becoming increasingly intolerable both for Chechnya itself and for Russia.

Media Issues

Judicial Body Denounces Restrictions on Reporters

LD1702141894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1219 GMT 17 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow February 17 TASS—Restrictions on the access of journalists to the government session on February 3 objectively infringed on the right of citizens to obtaining reliable and prompt information. This conclusion was drawn today at its first session by the information judicial chamber, which examined an appeal of the guild of parliamentary journalists.

Valentin Sergeyev, head of the government press service, gave explanations on the incident. He said it had taken place when he had not been there, and the cause of the incident was some technical complications, connected with the moving of the Cabinet of Ministers to the "White House".

Commenting on the resolution of the judicial chamber, its Deputy Chairman Igor Yeremin said that "one should not dramatize the situation and present an individual fact as a trend." At the same time, the chamber's resolution suggested that the legal status, rights and duties of press services of state bodies, as well as matters related to the accreditation of journalists, should be clearly reflected in the legislation.

St. Petersburg To Air Italian TV

MK1802090094 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 18 Feb 94 p 3

["M.A." report: "Milan" Owner Buys Our Channel Five"]

[Text] It has been announced in St. Petersburg that beginning in April evening prime time on Channel Five will be handed over to its Italian partners, who are ready to fill that time with their own films and programs. No details have been reported so far. There are every grounds to think, however, that St. Petersburg television is rapidly being taken over by an international information tycoon, one of the richest Italians—Silvio Berlusconi, who was one of the first to have launched his commercial television network in Europe. Berlusconi's representatives have spent the past two years working on Petersburg chiefs starting with Mayor Sobchak. They seem to have succeeded by finishing before other rivals who are eager to get the Neva [St. Petersburg] airwaves. Incidentally, the tycoon also owns the "Milan" soccer club. Does this mean they are not going to say anything good about "Spartak" on Channel Five?

Friction Between Media, Authorities Examined

LD1702232094

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1725 GMT on 17 February broadcasts the "Details" current affairs program introduced by Sergey Dorenko. Todays program was devoted to media relations with the Russian Government and State Duma and carried interviews with Duma opposition personalities, including Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, Georgiy Zyuganov, and Aleksandr Nevzorov.

Dorenko begins the program by suggesting that the present government was nostalgic for a previous age when it could maintain strict secrecy around its work. He then reports from the day's session of the Information Judicial Chamber under the Russian Federation president, over which Anatoliy Vengerov was presiding. The video shows the chamber at work.

Dorenko says that journalists attending the session had attacked the government for refusing media access to cabinet meetings two weeks previously. He then remarks that Vengerov had shown pro-government leanings at the actual session. Dorenko says that Vengerov had "twice thanked government representatives for attending, and said that the press had complaints to make, then corrected himself and said that they were not complaints, but requests."

Dorenko then interviews Vengerov. When he suggests that the public was being kept in the dark about government business, Vengerov replies that official statements were released after every cabinet meeting.

Returning to his commentary, Dorenko says that the government has defended its decision to bar access to journalists on the grounds that there was not sufficient space to accommodate them at the meetings. "Picture if you will, tens of thousands of journalists at a cabinet meeting. Truly a monstrous sight. It seems that it is not possible to find any bigger premises."

"The whole joke of it is," he continues, "that you will get to learn of everything anyway, only you will have to get your information from the government's enemies, among others." He goes on to say that the reason for the government's secrecy is that: "The government is busy with specific business. It is portioning out your quite specific money and is accounting for it not to you, but to the president."

The video then switches to Dorenko in the State Duma lobby, where he remarks that, in contrast to the government, the Duma is seeking as much media exposure as possible because it is suffering from an "orphan complex." He says that the anti-media sentiments of the last Russian parliament, which had "frequently attempted to do away with" the liberal Soviet-era press law, had continued into the Duma. A succession of opposition politicians then comment on the media:

Vladimir Marychev, a member of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia says: "The attitude of the Duma to the press is quite simple. That is to say, that all deputies are united in saying that where the press is concerned, the deputies have no chance of the truth being told."

Communist Faction leader Gennadiy Zyuganov says: "It is perfectly clear that a qualitatively new weapon is being used to destroy and tear at our power. It is called the information manipulation of public awareness."

Independent Deputy Aleksandr Nevzorov says: "To be perfectly frank, I believe that there is nothing more filthy than the so-called Russian press, and that this press has, for a long time now, been waging a deliberate war against all directions of authority and its own people. An information war for which there is no reason and which is doing its utmost to befoul practically everything. It is criminal to entrust any press whatsoever with covering the activities of parliament."

Dorenko then quotes Zhirinovskiy as having written in "his book" that journalists were "lonely, unfortunate people." Then Zhirinovskiy is shown being interviewed: "I am the leader of the party that won the elections. On the lists, we won on the 12 December. Therefore, journalists should be asking me about what I think of the president's helpers. But here the opposite is the case. Journalists ask the president's helpers what they think of the parties."

Then Duma Deputy Anatoliy Dolgopolov, dressed in Cossack-type regalia, complains that the press had reported that deputies had "multimillion salaries," "reserved cars," and "Bahamas lifestyles." Marychev then complains that media attention is focussed on a handful of deputies such as "Vladimir Volfovich, Gaydar, and Chubays."

Oleg Mironov, a Communist faction deputy, is then interviewed. He, too, complains that "the work of the Duma is reduced to Zhirinovskiy and talk about this or that privilege." When the female interviewer points out that Zhirinovskiy constantly insulted people, he replies: "We are not talking about hiding anything, but a lot depends on the dosage."

Dorenko then remarks that many deputies saw the only solution to the coverage problem in live broadcasting of parliament. Nevzorov is again interviewed. After referring to the "filth" being put out by the press, he says that he is himself a "great expert in the area of humiliating and destroying the body of deputies. I see my own methods being used, albeit in an unprofessional way. At least we used to do it with a sense of humor." He then concludes: "This Duma is, of course, doomed. There is no relay and the journalists cannot be trusted."

The video then switches to Zyuganov again: "Information and television are now not the fourth estate, but the first, second, third, and fourth, and a well-produced program directed against the law or something else prevents all the other estates from working properly. If we pass a law and the same evening a nice commentator appears and begins to pad it out, then believe you me, nobody in the country will obey that law."

Dorenko says that the Duma had adopted a law that day instructing the state media to cover its work in weekly reports in "Vesti," "Novosti," and "Details." Dorenko says that this instruction is worthless because no mechanism has been introduced to monitor the content of TV programs, and disarray among Duma deputies meant that it would be difficult to create such a mechanism.

He further points out that the Duma has no authority to issue instructions to the "Details" program as it was an independent production. Mikhail Poltoranin, chairman of the Duma's Media Committee, is then interviewed.

Poltoranin says: "This does not mean that you are going to get phone calls saying: Look here, Sergey, you are shooting such-and-such a thing today—well, you will have to drop it. Nothing of the sort. All we mean is that where, for example, we are debating the criminal codex or economic problems, we will say to you: Listen, Seresha, there is an interesting topic being worked on in the committees at the moment. It is important for the fight against corruption, the fight against crime, it is important for everyone, and we would like people to know what is being done about it in the highest corridors of power. Then you will say: Right, we will take a look. Who is dealing with it? Then we will just tell you who to see and you go ahead and judge for yourself."

Dorenko concludes by saying that there was nothing more frightening for his program than "endearments from the authorities."

Economic Issues

Reform Results in 'Sharp Erosion' of Living Standard

LD1702125094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1135 GMT 17 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS commentator Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow February 17 TASS—It is no secret that two years of vigorous effort at economic reform have resulted in sharp erosion of the living standards in Russia, decrease of the birthrate and increase of the death rate. The stratification of society into the very rich and very poor has become more pronounced. The middle class, the reliable support for liberal transformations in any country, is virtually non-existent in Russia. Because of all this the government has come to realise the objective fact that it has no longer a social base for application of the "shock therapy" to the economy.

The basic principle that is expected to be announced at an enlarged meeting of the cabinet next weekend will most probably be "the priority of social policy during a stage-by-stage stabilisation of production". Sources close to the prime minister say that Viktor Chernomyrdin bears in mind these top priorities when speaking about the need to continue the reform in "non-monetarist ways".

It is yet hard to say if these priorities will become the lever by which the prime minister will be able radically to improve the economic situation. Going by statistics for 1993 compiled by the Russian State Statistical Committee, the situation is extremely precarious in just these two aspects. Thus, after two years of reform, Gross Domestic Product dropped in 1993 by 29 per cent compared to 1991. The volume of industrial output declined by 31.3 per cent. Real monetary incomes of the population dropped by 43 per cent since 1991. Consumer prices rose 245 times. Almost 40 million of Russians or 26.7 per cent of the population, have the living standards below the poverty line. Over two years, unemployment rate grew 13.5 times.

The basic goals of the government's social policy for 1994 are defined in a lengthy report compiled by the Russian Ministry of Labour. The government proceeds from the premise that an effective and balanced social policy is the necessary condition for the continuation of reform, consolidation of its social basis and improvement of the social political situation. This is proclaimed in the report of the Labour Ministry, it was learned from informed sources. The main objective of the government's social policy for 1994 will be the stabilisation of the living standards in Russia with its subsequent rise as the economy stabilises. Experts believe this wording can justify the drawn-out expectation of economic and social results of the reform. Proceeding from modest financial opportunities of the state budget, the government will most probably concentrate on preventing the fall of real monetary incomes of the population by improving the

ratio between the minimum wage and the living wage, on reforming the health, education and housing systems and on the impact of the state on the population's employment and stepped-up work for personnel retraining.

Nuclear Plants Suffer 'Severe' Fuel Shortage

LD1802132694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1156 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow, February 18 (TASS)—Russian power plants are living through hard times: They experience a severe shortage of fuel. Power plant managers are unable to settle accounts with suppliers due to a shortage of funds, high prices for coal, gas and mazout as well as neck-breaking tariffs for their transportation.

Especially hard hit are power plants in the Russian Far East, Sakhalin Island and the Kamchatka peninsula as well as in Karelia and the Arkhangelsk region where fuel supplies were drastically cut.

Electric power plants in the Far East daily received 46,000 tons of coal this month, instead of planned 66,000 tons. As a result, fuel stocks at the plants dwindled down nearly by a third.

A paradoxical situation has developed: While warehouses of siberian suppliers are overstocked with fuel, power stations experience shortages. But non-payment by electricity consumers prevent stations from paying for fuel.

The Russian Joint Stock Society of Energy and Electification alone owes over 1,200 billion roubles. Incidentally, the figure is constantly growing. A chain reaction has emerged, as it were: tower plants owe money to coal miners and oilmen. In turn, they are in debt to railwaymen and machine-builders.

Several railways sharply cut coal deliveries due to non-payments. Many specialists see the way out of the present situation in switching to payment of transport tariffs by power plants themselves through mutual settlements.

If the situation with fuel supplies to power stations does not change in the near future, consumers, especially in the Far East and north-west, will inevitably experience further cuts in heat and electricity supplies.

To avoid such a situation, it is necessary to boost coal and mazout supplies by the end of February and in March.

Military & Space Issues

Former Adviser Warns West To Open Military Markets

BR1802121194 Paris LE FIGARO in French 18 Feb 94 p 4

[Report on interview with Mikhail Maley, head of defense industry conversion, by Laure Mandeville in Moscow; date not given: "The Alarmism of the Military-Industrial Complex"]

[Text] Moscow—"I give the government between three and five months to solve the present crisis. No longer than that, or we will lose control of the country." For Mikhail Maley, a former member of the military-industrial complex who was Boris Yeltsin's adviser before supervising the conversion of the defense industry for the Russian Security Council, the composition of the new government does not give rise to optimism: "The new team has no notion of the country which it is supposed to govern. It is acting accordingly." Yet Mikhail Maley was a fierce opponent of Yegor Gaydar's monetary stabilization policy. But he admits that the former government "at least had the advantage of basing itself on an idea, one which was certainly wrong but which was real."

All the signs of an imminent disaster exist, he warned: "Agriculture no longer has fertilizer or fuel. Unless we take emergency measures, the sowing will not take place in time." "In the railroads, I predict a crisis in the spring. There will be nothing to pay the salaries..." The crisis in the energy sector is such that Mikhail Maley fears that the electricity cuts might spread, because the power stations have not been paid for their services and have no more money for their energy suppliers.

Unemployment also worries the Russian official: "The next set of graduates and students will not find work. They have hitherto found jobs in commerce, in the criminal world. But every niche is occupied... In the current atmosphere of damaged pride, lack of heating and electricity, the demonstrators will not just be angry grandmothers..."

Last Asset

The West is mistaken therefore in abandoning Boris Yeltsin at the very moment when the situation is becoming really critical: "You forget that we are still a big nuclear power, even if we have become an economic pygmy. We must have access to the international arms market. Otherwise, we will no longer be able to respect the rules set by a well-fed and self-important West. We are being strangled."

Only the military-industrial complex can still save the country from the crisis, he concluded. With its 6 million men and its network of enterprises capable of producing almost any goods, "it is the only organized force which remains in Russia, the country's last asset."

Judging from what he says, President Yeltsin is beginning to understand the importance of the issue and supported the defense industry's plans in the last two meetings of the Security Council. But he is still too "disorientated" to really commit himself. "Boris Nikolayevich feels he has chosen the wrong model of reform, but he is still reluctant to change it," Mikhail Maley suggested.

The president may not fully share the certainties of his former adviser on the role of "magic potion" which the defense complex could play. Indeed, it is far from being monolithic. It is seriously affected by the crisis.

The defense industry sector has not been spared by the problem of mounting debts. It is suffering the effects of government nonpayment amounting to $1.5 billion. IZEVESTIYA this week devoted the front page of its edition to the explosive situation in the military enterprises in Siberia. According to the Russian daily, the Krasmash misile factory has not been paid by the state for the 11.3 billion rubles worth of orders it supplied in 1993, and it has not been able to pay any salaries for four months. The angry workers are furious and marched on the residence of the region's governor to demand their due. The governor had to flee to Moscow where he was promised money. "But the money has still not arrived and there is no more work," IZVESTIYA reports.

Ministries at Odds Over 1994 Army Funding

PM1702162994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Feb 94 p 3

[Ivan Ivanyuk report under "Postscript. Events and Commentaries" rubric: "There Is No 1994 Budget Yet. Problems With Financing Army and Navy Apparently Remain"]

[Text] Colonel General Vasiliy Vorobyev, chief of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry Military Budget and Financing Main Directorate, spoke yesterday at a press conference organized by the Russian Federation Defense Ministry Information and Press Directorate. He talked about the problems of providing financial support for the Russian Army, which have still not become any less acute.

Thus only 65 percent of the Defense Ministry's financial expenditure needs last year were met, which constantly led to delays in paying pay and allowances and wages in the Army and Navy. As of 1 January 1994 the Defense Ministry owed 2.2 trillion rubles [R] to suppliers of weapons, equipment, property, supply items, and other goods and services.

It was noted at the press conference that this debt was partly cleared by the Russian Finance Ministry this February—settlements with the national economy, including defense sectors of industry, are already being made from the R1 trillion deposited in Defense Ministry accounts.

But by all accounts the resources allocated are insufficient to remove even the most acute questions from the agenda. One of them is the financing of capital and housing construction. Because of the lack of appropriations for these purposes it was made virtually impossible to fulfill the 1993 tasks under the state program to provide servicemen with housing. Of the 61,700 apartments planned for commissioning via federal budget resources, only 50,000 or 81 percent of the plan were commissioned. The Defense Ministry is trying to solve its financial problems by selling released property. Last year 1,600 apartments were acquired by this means.

At the same time it is clear that the Armed Forces cannot function normally without stable, full-blooded financing. But studies on the 1994 military budget indicate that the Finance Ministry is currently prepared to allocate only one-third of the sums requested by the Defense Ministry.

Answering a question on financing and reforming the mass media, Col. Gen. Vorobyev said that a choice has to be made in the current very complex economic conditions: Whether to maintain a particular military journal or give troops their statutory pay, for which people have sometimes been waiting months. It is a difficult choice but the second option must be chosen.

Defense Sector Blames Woes on Finance Ministry

MK1702123094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Feb 94 p 2

[Faina Osmanova report under the "Economy" rubric: "Defense Sector Looks for Government Support. Tariff Agreement for This Year Signed"]

[Text] The State Committee for Defense Industries, the Trade Union Association, and the Labor Ministry have signed a tariff agreement for 1994. The Defense Industries Committee expects that industrial policy regarding defense industries will be propped up by due government support and budget financing. The committee is presently trying to identify all the key areas so as to ensure the most efficient workload for scientific and research institutes and design bureaus, and also to utilize the defense industries' scientific-technical potential in a rational fashion.

In 1993 the sector experienced a 19.6-percent slump in production against 36.7 percent in 1990; the production of weapons and military hardware fell 34.3 percent against 1992 and 72.4 percent against 1990. The share of weapons and military hardware slipped from 50 percent in 1990 to 21 percent in 1993. The main reasons for the downturn are: a break in economic relations, the unrestrained growth in raw material prices, oppressive taxation policy, and, as a consequence, a huge amount of enterprises' mutual debts. The negative processes under way in the defense sector have been caused by conversion (nearly 70 percent in 1992) and the extremely inadequate financing by the state. Conversion that affects over 5-7 percent of military production is considered destructive in international practice. Corporate

profits have been the main source of financing defense industries, accounting for nearly one-half of the cost financing. The Finance Ministry has released only 67 percent of the money appropriated for conversion programs and 23.7 percent of funds to maintain mobilization capacities, but even that was done after long delays. The enterprises have been forced to take bank credits at high interest rates. As a result of this policy of defense sector financing virtually all budget appropriations for government defense orders (99.9 percent) have been transferred to commercial banks and the Russian Federation Central Bank toward repaying the credits. It turned out that the government budget financed commercial banks and the Central Bank, not the military-industrial sector. In fact, the money was simply pumped from the government budget right into the banking system, and the defense sector enterprises worked to boost the banks' profits, not to satisfy the country's defense needs. In the end, defense enterprises ended 1993 with the accounts payable of 3 trillion rubles and the accounts receivable of around 2 trillion rubles. At the same time, while the Russian Federation Defense Ministry technically remains their main customer, it has effectively been replaced as such by the Finance Ministry.

Defense Industry on 'Verge of Collapse'

LD1702191994 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1500 GMT 17 Feb 94

[By Georgiy Salandiya in Moscow; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The situation at enterprises of the military-industrial complex was discussed at a news conference at the State Committee for Defense in Moscow. Only yesterday the defense industry was the state's favorite, but today—and this a highy intellectual industry as regards technology and specialists—it is on the verge of collapse. Collapse is the very word, because in civilized countries a level of conversion of over 5-7 percent is already regarded as destructive. But in our country, in 1992 alone, it was almost 70 percent.

This is despite the fact that 80 percent of the output of the military-industrial complex consists of civilian output and consumer goods. The workers in the defense sectors are on the brink of poverty and the enterprises themselves are on the brink of shutdown. The state owes the enterprises of the military-industrial complex some 2 trillion rubles. In the event of them shutting down the enterprises of many sectors will not receive unique materials. The defense industry will cease servicing military equipment in the forces and will stop the delivery of spare parts for military equipment abroad.

Defense Official Discusses Stance on Nuclear Safety

MK1702103094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Feb 94 p 1

[Andrey Vaganov report under the "Security" rubric: "Russian Defense Ministry Nuclear Facilities. Dispute on Outside Control Continues"]

[Text] The Russian Federal Committee for Oversight of Nuclear and Radiation Safety (RF Gosatomnadzor) held a news conference devoted to the state and problems of ensuring safety at facilities around Russia that constitute a nuclear and radiation hazard (according to Gosatomnadzor, they number 14,500 today).

The major part of RF Gosatomnadzor chairman Yuriy Vishnevskiy's address dealt with problems that had arisen in relations between the organization he heads and the Russian Federation Defense Ministry. According to Yu. Vishnevskiy, the problems boil down to the fact that, despite the repeatedly confirmed decisions made by the Russian Federation president, Defense Ministry chiefs are preventing the establishment of state oversight over the Russian Federation Defense Ministry's nuclear and radiation hazardous facilities. The situation at these facilities, Yuriy Vishnevskiy believes, is very serious: There have been instances of nuclear materials having been stolen and people overexposed.

Rear Admiral Nikolay Yurasov, chief of the Russian Navy nuclear safety inspection, commented in an exclusive interview for NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA on the Defense Ministry's stance on the given question.

[Vaganov] The commander in chief of Russia's armed forces—the Russian Federation president—made a political decision: to provide for nondepartmental control at Defense Ministry nuclear facilities. Why is Gosatomnadzor not allowed in these facilities?

[Yurasov] From the moment the RF Gosatomnadzor was formed, we invited their specialists right away, and they worked at our facilities. But when the process of approving documents began, a number of problems cropped up.

[Vaganov] With what are they connected?

[Yurasov] These questions affect not only the Defense Ministry as a departmental organ. In the first place, they are connected with state security problems, problems of breaking up the Russian Federation Defense Ministry structures already created for these same purposes. We also disagree with those requirements on provision of information put forward by Gosatomnadzor. But we are working with them, and, I think, will come to an agreement after all.

[Vaganov] The Gosatomnadzor chairman has stated he still does not know the details of the theft of one kg of fissionable materials from a military base in Murmansk in 1993. What do you know about this?

[Yurasov] We do not know the details either. The prosecuting bodies taking part in investigating this case have not given us any additional information.

[Vaganov] How would you comment on yet another statement of the Gosatomnadzor chairman: departmental control in principle cannot be more effective than state control.

[Yurasov] Mr. Vishnevskiy expressed himself somewhat differently: Owing to the fact that departmental control exists and the nuclear fleet's problems have (he said) not been solved. I radically disagree with him. The fleet's problems have been known to everyone and for a long time. Beginning in 1988—I state it with all responsibility—the CPSU Central Committee general secretary, the USSR president, and all chairmen of governments were aware of these problems.

In accordance with Russian Federation president's directive No. 224 of 9 April 1993 on the incident in Tomsk-7, Gosatomnadzor was directed to conduct an inspection of all hazardous zones at nuclear facilities of all agencies, including those of the Defense Ministry. An interdepartmental commission was set up with RF Gosatomnadzor representatives also as its members. A report was elaborated on the results of this commission's work that was signed by Atomic Energy Minister Viktor Mikhaylov and Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. This report is now being looked at in the government. Unfortunately, Mr. Vishnevskiy refused to add his signature to this document for formal reasons.

Let the respected Mr. Vishnevskiy say, which question in the area of nuclear safety of Russian Federation Defense Ministry facilities are unknown in the government? Should there be financial means, we will do all that depends on us. The thing is that out of the two directives adopted in connection with ensuring safety of nuclear facilities last year, one received no financial backing at all, and the other as little as 15 percent.

Officials Report on Navy's Nuclear Safety

LD1702135194 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 17 Feb 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Today's briefing at the General Staff of the Navy was devoted to the Navy's nuclear safety. Rear Admiral Yurasov, head of the Nuclear Safety Inspectorate, said that nuclear and radiation safety norms were revised after the Chernobyl catastrophe. According to Yurasov, these norms are being observed in the majority of atomic installations, atomic subs, and ships.

[Begin Yurasov recording] Considerable financial means are required to maintain the operation of these atomic subs. These atomic subs are a potential source of radiological contamination. [end recording]

A serious shortage of personnel to man nuclear installations is another problem of the Navy. There are not enough sailors, warrant officers, and officers. Touching upon the issue of sunken submarines—specifically, the Komsomolets sub—it was noted that it would be more expedient to mothball rather than raise them. The radioactive contamination around the Komsomolets is local and does not represent an ecological disaster. The marines do not regard as necessary the Gosatomnadzor's [Federal Oversight of Nuclear and Radiation Safety] supervision of certain installations; they believe that departmental monitoring of the Navy's nuclear safety is sufficient.

[Begin V. Makarov recording, deputy director of Gosatomnadzor] What they are proposing runs counter to the approved amendments introduced in the provision on Gosatomnadzor. These amendment were agreed upon with the chief of the General Staff, and I cannot change the list of installations to be monitored. [end recording]

Raduga Communication Satellite Launched

LD1802102394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0959 GMT 18 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS string correspondent Semyon Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow February 18 TASS—The Russian military-space forces launched a "Raduga" sputnik from the Baykonur cosmodrome at 10 hours 56 minutes Moscow time today. The sputnik was launched by means of a heavy "Proton-K" three-stage carrier-rocket equipped with a "DM-2" acceleration block. The orbiting was successful. The sputnik's flight is controlled by the centre for testing and controlling the vehicle.

The sputnik, developed by the Applied Mechanics Scientific Production Society (Krasnoyarsk-26) under the direction of Chief Constructor and Director-General Mikhail Reshetnev, weighs about two tonnes and will be able to remain on the orbit for three years. It is fitted out with six-channel board relaying unit, designed to transmit telephone and telegraph signals. The sputnik will be placed on the near geostationary orbit—90 degrees eastern longitude—approximately seven hours after the start. Then it will be moved to its final position—45 degrees eastern longitude—by means of low-thrust engines. It will be used for the designed purposes in that position.

The launching of the "Proton-K" carrier-rocket was the 215th since its first start in 1967 and already the third since the beginning of this year. Only six launchings of this type of carrier-boosters were effected last year.

Two "Soyuz" vehicles were launched from Baykonur this year in addition to the "Protons". Such a busy launching schedule was made possible by the concerted efforts of men from the Russian military-space forces, who, in spite of several unresolved problems linked with the Baykonur cosmodrome and the town of Leninsk, are continuing to prepare and launch spuntiks.

Talks on the status and lease of the Baykonur cosmodrome are continuing between Moscow and Almaty. If they prove successful, the presidents of Russia and Kazakhstan will sign corresponding documents this March.

Mir Orbital Station in Flight

LD1802113394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1100 GMT 18 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Mission Control Centre, February 18 (TASS)—Cosmonauts Viktor Afanaysev, Yuriy Usachev and Valeriy Polyakov are continung their flight on board the "Mir" scientific research complex.

They continued astrophysical, geophysical and technological experiments this week.

Several series of experiments were carried out in accordance with the "Roentgen" international astrophysical research programme. The telescopes of the "Kvant" module were trained on one of the pulsars in the crab nebula.

Today, the crew is regulating the equipment of the basic block. They are to replace one of the storage batteries in the station's power-supply system with a new one, delivered to the orbit by the automatic "Progress M-21" cargo vehicle. Medical examinations of the crew, carried out during the past few days, show that they are all in good health.

Federal Assembly

Yeltsin To Address Both Parliament Chambers 24 Feb

LD1802133294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1245 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow February 18 TASS—Boris Yeltsin instructed on Friday his representative in parliament Aleksandr Yakovlev to suggest that the chairmen of the chambers should call meetings of the lower and upper chambers to hear the president's message at 11:00 on February 24, reported the presidential press service.

State Duma Establishes Work Agenda

LD1802112494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1116 GMT 18 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow February 18 TASS—The State Duma today endorsed its following work agenda: meetings of the chamber's council will henceforth be held every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. It is planned to hold meetings of factions and parliamentary groups twice a week—on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Parliamentary committees and commissions will work on Mondays and Thursdays. Parliamentary hearings will be held on Tuesdays. Plenary meetings of the State Duma will be held as before twice a week—on Wednesdays and Fridays. The "government hour" will be held on the same days, as well as political debates, including statements by factions, parliamentary groups and committees, and speeches by individual parliament members.

Law on Deputy Status Approved in First Reading

LD1802142294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1306 GMT 18 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, February 18 (TASS)—The draft federal law "on the status of a deputy of the Council of the Federation of the first convocation and the status of a deputy of the State Duma of the first convocation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation" was today approved by the Russian State Duma (the lower chamber of the parliament) in first reading. Taking part in the bill's elaboration were 19 lawyers—members of the Russian parliament.

The law lays down the rights, duties, and responsibilities of members of both chambers of the Russian parliament. It also stipulates the basic rights and guarantees of parliament members, proceeding from Chapter 2 of the Russian Constitution.

Now the bill will have to be thrashed out in the committees and commissions of the two chambers of the Russian Federal Assembly (parliament), in the factions and parliamentary groups of the State Duma. Then, not later than March 10, their remarks and suggestions will be summed up by the State Duma's parliamentary committee for organisational affairs. After that, the bill will be submitted for second reading.

The document consists of five chapters and 41 articles. It is worth noting that deputies of the two chambers of the parliament, as approved during the first reading, shall enjoy the right of immunity throughout their term of office. They cannot be detained, arrested, or searched, except in cases when they are caught red-handed. They cannot be subjected to personal examination, except cases envisaged by the federal law in order to ensure the safety of other people. The right of immunity covers also the homes and offices of parliament members, their correspondence, the means of communication they use, and also the documents belonging to them. The question of stripping an MP of immunity shall be decided by a corresponding chamber of the Federal Assembly at the request of the procurator-general of the Russian Federation.

Members of the Council of the Federation and members of the State Duma are exempted from military service and military training sessions for their entire term of office. They are to furnish information on their incomes and property status to the state taxation service and corresponding bodies of the Council of the Federation and the State Duma (the two chambers of the Russian parliament).

Members of the Council of the Federation and members of the State Duma shall have the right to interpellate the

president and the government of the Russian Federation, the ministries, departments or any other executive agencies on questions within the competence of those bodies at any time they deem it necessary.

It remains to be seen whether or not these provisions will remain in the final text of the law after the second reading.

Duma Backs Georgia Treaty Ratification Postponement

LD1702203994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2012 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] The State Duma Committee for CIS Affairs and Relations with Compatriots has supported the statement of President Boris Yeltsin who called to postpone the Russian-Georgian treaty's ratification before the situation in Abkhazia and South Ossetia was settled. This was announced by the committee's Chairman, Konstantin Zatulin at the State Duma's session on Thursday [17 February].

Zatulin informed deputies on the closed parliamentary meeting on Russian-Georgian relations which had taken place on February 10. According to Zatulin, Georgian, Abkhazian and South Ossetian representatives were invited to the meeting.

Zatulin refuted the allegations by media that this treaty was unilaterally beneficial for Russia. He stressed that the Russian military contingency in Georgia was, in fact, being reduced since the divisions earlier stationed there were to be withdrawn. Regiments are to be stationed on the military bases instead of the divisions.

Zatulin announced that many telegrams and appeals were coming to the State Duma from North Caucasian people, saying that the treaty with Georgia was a threat to peace in the region.

Zatulin emphasized that the committee led by him would back peacemaking efforts put by the Russian president and aimed at political settlement in Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Zatulin expressed his concern over the fact that the treaty could be implemented de facto before its ratification. Proceeding from this, he recommended that a law on international treaties which would mention which treaties were a subject to ratification by the parliament be urgently adopted.

Duma Adopts Decree on Media Coverage

LD1702142594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1220 GMT 17 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow February 17 TASS—The decree on the coverage of the State Duma activities by federal TV and radio broadcasting companies was adopted by the lower chamber of the Federal Assembly on Thursday [17 February]. Under the decree, the State Duma Committee on the Information Policy and Communications has been instructed to submit to the lower chamber of the Federal Assembly before March 21, 1994 a draft federal law on the procedure of the coverage by state mass media of the activity of the Russian state authorities.

The decree envisages that before this law goes into effect, it is necessary to endorse a rough schedule of the coverage of State Duma activities by television. The schedule should be coordinated with Ostankino company and the Russian Television.

The committee for organising the work of the State Duma jointly with the Duma Committee on the Information Policy and Communications have been instructed to organise the press service of the State Duma and to create the necessary conditions for preparing television and radio programmes with the use of the equipment of the Russian television-parliament complex.

On Wednesday the State Duma decided on the further working out of the decree. All the amendments to the decree submitted by chairman of the Duma Committee of the Information Policy and Communications, Mikhail Poltoranin, were turned down by deputies at a meeting on Thursday.

Duma 16 Feb Proceedings Reported

PM1702162594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Feb 94 First Edition p 1

[Robert Minasov and Yevgeniy Skukin report: "Family Row in 'Falcon' Camp"]

[Text] The 16 February morning plenary session of the State Duma began with a small but fairly loud sensation. Viktor Kobelev, member of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] faction, expressed his indignation that deputies have for some reason not been given the statement signed by himself and another faction member Aleksandr Pronin saying that they are quitting the LDPR faction. Vladimir Zhirinovskiy did not hang around. He described his party "brothers" in brusque, insulting terms and even accused them of criminal activities, saying that they have both been expelled from the LDPR and will therefore be immediately replaced in accordance with the Statute on Elections.

But that was not the only emotional outburst while the agenda was being discussed. Sergey Baburin thought that the signing of the treaty between Russia and Tatarstan will do Russian statehood irreparable damage since, in the deputy's opinion, this is the first-ever case of this kind of treaty being concluded between the whole and part of Russia. Thus, Baburin said, a precedent has been set for Russia to slide into a confederative system. However, it turned out that by no means many deputies share Sergey Baburin's opinion, so they rejected his proposal regarding guarantees of Russia's territorial integrity.

We have already said that part of the corps of deputies—that part, incidentally, which nominated Ivan Rybkin for the post of chairman of the chamber—is now blatantly voicing its dissatisfaction with his actions. Yesterday (16 February) the selfsame Sergey Baburin tried to get a question regarding the work of the chairman of the lower chamber onto the agenda on the grounds that, among other things, Rybkin, regardless of the opinion of certain deputies, nominated Andrey Voykov, a man of whom they are not fond, for the post of head of the apparatus.

The proposal made by Vyacheslav Marychev (LDPR) from the microphone caused a lively commotion: He proposed banning the Russia-wide television relay and...activity of Radio Liberty. Yuliy Gusman ("Russia's Choice") very reasonably objected by saying: How can you jam a radio on television?

Regional Affairs

'Direct Protectorate' Recommended for Ingush-Ossetia

LD1702150294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1313 GMT 17 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow February 17 TASS—Only the establishment of "direct protectorate with all fullness of power in the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict will be able to resolve it sufficiently fast", Vassily Tarasenko, chairman of Russia's committee of the Federation Council on federal affairs and regional policy, told ITAR-TASS. He headed a delegation of deputies sent by the upper chamber of Russian parliament to North Caucasus.

After familiarizing himself with the situation in the zone under state of emergency, Vassily Tarasenko came to the conclusion that the content of the conflict is mostly connected with issues of ownership and power". Therefore, according to him, "the main thing for Russia now is not to give each side a little more power but establish necessary state power, for instance, in the form of a protectorate transferring to it all financial levers, judicial system and armed forces".

Presidents of the republics will remain, chairman of the committee says, but practically a representative of the center will bear all responsibility for the state of affairs. However, if this representative exceeds his powers or violates the all-Russian interests he will be immediately held responsible before the center.

During their stay in the zone of the conflict, the deputies associated with leaders of both republics, clergy, national movements, well-known representatives of intelligentsia, ordinary people and military men, and got convinced that all of them agree in one thing that "Russian presence is imperative there". Otherwise, "there will be fight in which innocent people will die as he who starts fighting, as a rule, does not participate in it".

Buryatia's Health Minister Fired for Embezzlement

LD1802110394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0316 GMT 18 Feb 94

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Trofimov]

[Text] Ulan-Ude, 18 Feb— Vladimir Tarmayev, Buryatia's health minister, was relieved from his post by resolution of the Buryatia government. The reason for dismissal was gross violation of legislation and regulations governing expenditure of the budget funds, exposed by a special investigation.

In particular, due to lack of control, the ministry has sold off 17 vehicles to various commercial organizations. The damage from unauthorized business trips made by the ex-minister and a number of his subordinates abroad and within Russia is estimated as very serious. At a modest estimate, financial "slips" made by Tarmayev cost the taxpayers more that 20 million rubles.

The government of Buryatia has forwarded the evidence of the investigation to the republic's procuracy.

Komi Parliament Adopts Alternate Draft Constitution

MK1702131094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 17 Feb 94 p 2

[Unattributed report under the "Provincial Chronicle" rubric]

[Text] Syktyvkar— A special session of the Komi parliament is looking at a draft of the republic's new constitution. Along with the main draft prepared by the constitutional commission, an alternative draft was examined, which was proposed by one of the republic's public movements. The latter was finally adopted as a basis: it proposes the introduction of a unicameral parliament and the post of nationally elected head of the republic. Premier Vyacheslav Khudyayev, who put forward the initiative to call a republican constitutional conference, suggested that, in addition to deputies, representatives of organs of local governments, public organizations, and entrepreneurs should take part in its proceedings. According to the premier, however, the Council of Ministers "does not intend to convene the constitutional conference independently from parliament."

Local TV Station Begins Operation in Vladimir Oblast

PM1802100594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Feb 94 First Edition p 3

[Yuriy Shatalov report: "Aleksandrov Presents"]

[Text] Regular broadcasting from a local television studio has begun in Aleksandrov in Vladimir Oblast.

The studio was founded by the city administration. The Aleksandrov Radio Plant, the largest in Central Russia, provided the equipoment, apparatus, instruments, and editorial building.

The power of the transmitter enables the television signal to carry over a distance of around 10 km. The local studio's programs will be watched not only by residents in the city of Aleksandrov, but also in outlying villages and hamlets. For the time being the studio is to air twice a week, but in the future there will be daily broadcasts, Aleksandr Shornikov, head of the city's television studio, remarked.

International Affairs

Kravchuk, France's Mitterrand Discuss Ties

WS1702133594 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] President Leonid Kravchuk has had a telephone conversation with French President Francois Mitterrand, during which the two leaders discussed prospects for the development of bilateral relations and issues related to Ukraine's practical steps toward implementing the START I Treaty. Both presidents spoke in favor of dynamically developing and deepening Ukrainian-French cooperation. In particular, the two presidents agreed that an aide of the French president will come to Kiev to take part in drafting a concrete program of mutual assistance in the most important economic areas. This was reported by the press service of the Ukrainian Government and president.

Crimea's Meshkov Gives News Conference on Moscow Trip

MK1702122094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Feb 94 p 3

[Unattributed NEGA report in the "Crimea" column]

[Excerpts] Yesterday in Simferopol Yuriy Meshkov gave a press conference. It was devoted mainly to the results of the Crimean president's six-day visit to Moscow. The president noted that he is "more than satisfied" with the meetings and negotiations in Moscow. According to Yuriy Meshkov, some tangible steps have been made toward merging the economies of Russia and the Republic of Crimea. The president said that by the start of the summer vacation season the peninsula will be in the ruble zone. Yuriy Meshkov assured that "we shall feel the results of this in the very near future." According to the president, "all the important decisions have been made on energy deliveries and other problems, in spite of the rather complicated situation in Russia itself." It was specially noted that "the Republic of Crimea enjoys the most favored nation regime with Russia." The president did not say whom he met in Moscow, saying only that negotiations were held at the highest level. "Above that level is only God." [passage omitted]

Talking about his visit to Kiev prior to his trip to Moscow, Meshkov stressed repeatedly that this visit was of a working character. "In Kiev, questions of the Crimean economy were discussed." Meshkov noted, however, that "the negotiations there were conducted in a friendly but rather tense situation. There is no way they can compare with the talks in Moscow. It is like apples and oranges." The president confirmed reports that Russia has allocated 50 billion rubles to ensure the return of the people deported from Crimea. Sharp comments were made with respect to persons implicated in misappropriating the resources earlier granted to the Crimean Tatars by Ukraine. "Some Crimean Tatars live in dugouts while some are building four-story mansions for themselves. I ordered my ministers to straighten that out." The president stated that his first edict will be on interethnic relations.

Responding to the question of weather he has advised Kravchuk about his trip to Russia, Yuriy Meshkov said, "I do not report to the Ukrainian president on my work." [passage omitted]

Journalists at the press conference assessed Meshkov's phrase "I consider it abnormal when state structures are used to promote the (journalists') views" as an encroachment on glasnost. The president believes that the journalist's duty is to "convey information," not express his opinion or select people who share it. "It is wrong to use one's official position to express one's personal views."

Comments on Preserving Unity With Russia

LD1702195594 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Simferopol, Crimea Republic, 17 Feb—Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov declared at a meeting with mass media representatives that the Crimea "is trying to preserve economic unity with Russia." According to Yuriy Meshkov, this very issue was the main objective of his six day visit to Moscow. "All the necessary agreements were signed," pointed out the Crimean president. "At present the Crimean republic enjoys the most favored nation treatment in its relations with Russia." Mr. Meshkov promised Crimea residents that they would feel the positive results of the Moscow agreements in the very near future.

The Crimean president told journalists that a trade and economic representation of the Crimea would be opened in Moscow soon and a representation of the Russian Federation and separate representations of the Krasnodar and Stavropol regions would be opened in Simferopol.

Dwelling on the appointment of the Moscow economist, Russia's former Minister of Economy Yevgeniy Saburov, to the post of the prime minister of the Crimea, Meshkov pointed out the following: "Today it would be most advantageous to appoint this very man to the post of prime minister."

Saburov cannot hold the state post because he is not a citizen of Ukraine, the leader of the Ukrainian president's service for issues of domestic policy Mr. Mykhalchenko declared in this connection. However, according to the press service of the Council of Ministers of the Crimea, dual citizenship will soon be introduced in the Crimea thus enabling Mr. Saburov, currently director of the Information and Social Technologies Centre under the government of the Russian Federation, to become the prime minister of the Crimea.

National Affairs

Fuel Delivery Suspension Causes Problems for Chernobyl

LD1702145394 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0900 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] UNIAN has already reported that the automatic emergency safety device disconnected the second turbogenerator of the first generating set at Chernobyl Atomic Electric Station. The causes of the activation of the automatic device are being investigated. The first generating set, however, continues to work at the 450-MW load. The station's third generating set is only working at 50 percent of its capacity due to the suspension of nuclear fuel deliveries from Russia.

Official Says Power Stations Have Only 2-3 Days Fuel

LD1802005094 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2130 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Kiev—Oleksiy Sheberstov, first deputy minister of power engineering and electrification, reported at a news conference at the Ministry of Power Engineering and Electrification of Ukraine on 17 February that the situation taking shape at Ukraine's electric power stations is that the amount of fuel is ample for two or three days only. Last night the Tripolye station was put out of operation; a question has been raised about discontinuing the operation of the last unit at the Zaporozhye GRES [state district electric power station]; 43 tons of coal are left at the Burshtyn station, which requires 18,000 tons of coal per day. A similar situation is occuring at other stations. Oleksiy Sheberstov reported that if the stations are put out of operation completely, it would be virtually impossible to resume their work.

The main reasons for the critical situation which is happening at the electric power stations is the absence of coal and fuel oil. Only 100,000 tons of coal are being supplied, but the consumption need is 160,000 tons per day. There are ample quantities of fuel oil; however, the Ministry of Power Engineering and Electrification has no money to buy it, said Sheberstov. At the same time, it was pointed out that there are customers wishing to buy electric energy for Russian rubles, however, the "Law on currency regulation" allows the sale of electric energy for Ukrainian coupons only.

Dwelling on the process of setting up corporations and joint-stock companies within the industry, Sheberstov remarked that today this process is impossible to carry out without restructuring the industry, because Ukraine has a single centralized network. Therefore, the claims by Dnepropetrovsk, Lugansk, Donetsk, and Zaporozhye oblasts that the regional property, power transmission lines in particular, should be passed into their ownership are groundless.

Replying to the question whether the increase in tariffs for electric energy had positive consequences, Sheberstov said that "electric energy will not be saved until it is sold to domestic customers at a price which is lower than its current prime cost."

Cabinet of Ministers To Solve 'Nonpayments Crisis'

LD1702202894 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1513 GMT 17 Feb 94

[All monetary amounts as received]

[Text] Kiev—Ways to overcome the nonpayments crisis were discussed at the Ukraine Cabinet of Ministers sitting, held with the participation of Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, First Deputy Chairman Vasyl Durdynets, and Acting Prime Minister Yukhym Zvyahilskyy on 17 February.

The data from the Economy Ministry reveals that the now regular nonpayments crisis in industry began in September 1993 and the situation particularly exacerbated in December. As a result, production in December fell by 14 percent and the latest data shows it reached 43 percent in January 1994. The steps taken by the NBU [National Bank of Ukraine] and the government in January and February 1994 to combat the nonpayments crisis, such as extending stabilization credit to the amount of 5.4 trillion karbovantsi and repayable financial assistance to the amount of 5.5 trillion karbovantsi, have so far not made the situation change for the better.

Economy Minister Roman Shpek announced at the Cabinet of Ministers sitting that various data pointed to the nonpayment by Ukrainian enterprises of 40 to 80 trillion karbovantsi, which caused industry to become uncontrollable. Roman Shpek demanded that the real causes of the nonpayments crisis should be established, thus making the secret become common knowledge. Both the plan and the budget, in the economy minister's view, should be revised. "Let us not pretend that the differences in the policies of the Economy Ministry, Finance Ministry, and the National Bank will somehow pass. Otherwise, no decisions will be taken."

Asked by the Ukrainian president whether the fall in inflation in January to 19 percent meant the government was winning, Roman Shpek answered in the positive but pointed out that this was "a victory over the people, pensioners, and the economy." The economy minister predicted that the consequence of this victory would be large emission which would push Ukraine "towards an unprepared monetary reform."

Before a speech by National Bank of Ukraine Chairman Viktor Yushchenko, a representative of PivdenMash [Southern Machine Building] production association said he could not understand how a situation was possible when "ministers cannot agree" and when the president should exercise strict control over the NBU.

In his speech, Viktor Yushchenko stressed that the nonpayments crisis "is not resolved by the amount of money available for enterprises but is a reflection of the economic crisis." Yushchenko's data shows that two to four trillion karbovantsi per month are at present not being exchanged for goods. As of 1 February alone, over 16 trillion karbovantsi in circulation "did not return." Viktor Yushchenko said there were different views on ways out of the crisis, rather than antagonism in relations between the National Bank, Finance Ministry, and Economy Ministry. Viktor Yushchenko called for consolidation in support of anti-inflation measures. Yushchenko added that "50 percent of price rises in May this year [as received] are the result of the emission that already is there."

Ukrainian Acting Prime Minister Yukhym Zvyahilskyy remarked that "all Yushchenko [National Bank of Ukraine chairman] is doing is inciting Ukraine and harming the policy of the Cabinet of Ministers."

Vice Prime Minister Valentyn Landyk also accused the NBU leadership of "subversive economic activities." Landyk spoke categorically against "flirting" with the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs.

Finance Minister Heorhiy Pyatachenko stated that "we have successfully ruined the old financial system without having created a new one." Pyatachenko noted that credit resources were not being returned. The finance minister joined in the criticism of the National Bank and pointed out that the NBU "was not taking account of anyone's views."

Supreme Council of Ukraine [Budget & Planning] Standing Committee Chairman Andriy Pecherov proposed to restrict "the influence of foreign economies." Pecherov spoke in favor of state regulation of the economy and called for "the introduction of an economic state of emergency."

The Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, the leaders of which had been invited to this sitting, had on the previous day submitted for examination by the government its proposals regarding resolving the non-payments crisis. The Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs is demanding in particular that an interbank offsetting of bills be conducted. In accordance with its results bankrupt enterprises will be determined, and it will be necessary to urgently begin clearing up [sanatsiya] inefficient enterprises with these bankrupt enterprises.

It is also proposed that the government appeal to Ukraine's Supreme Council, which will continue plenary sittings on 22 February, so that the limit of primary emission for the first quarter of 1994 be confirmed at 50 trillion karbovantsi. The Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs is also demanding that draft basic directions of monetary and credit policy in 1994 be submitted for examination by Ukraine's Supreme Council. The Cabinet of Ministers sitting continued after lunch.

Radetskyy Says Sevastopol To Remain Navy's Main Base

LD1702140094 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0830 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Kiev, 16 Feb—It was reported by the Defense Ministry's press center that a meeting took place between Army General Vitaliy Radetskyy, Ukrainian defense minister, and foreign states' ambassadors accredited to Ukraine. The defense minister stressed that Ukraine was a peaceful state, and the numerical strength of its Armed Forces would gradually decrease. Radetskyy added that Ukraine would actively take part in tackling European security issues. As for the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, he spoke in favor of its peaceful settlement.

On the subject of the Black Sea Fleet, the defense minister said Ukraine primarily needed to make an inventory of the Black Sea Fleet's property as of December 1991 [date as received]. This work could be done by an interstate commission with the participation of independent experts and observers. The next stage should be reducing the fleet's existing group of forces, which now is a burden both for Ukraine and Russia. Putting these measures into practice, in Radetskyy's view, will prompt what to do with the Black Sea Fleet in the long run. As for the main base of the Ukrainian Navy, it is and will be in Sevastopol.

Saburov Answers Questions on Crimean Ministerial Post

LD1702130694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0900 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Moscow—In an exclusive interview with a UNIAN correspondent on 16 February, Yevgeniy Saburov, director of the Center for Informational and Social Technologies under the Russian Federation's Government—who intends to take up the performance of his duties as the Republic of the Crimea deputy prime minister [as received] in the very near future—said the principal aim of his activity at the new post, in his view, was to set up an effective economic mechanism that would make the life of the peninsula's population considerably easier.

"I will also seek to make the Crimea an open republic that will not secede from anyone. I am a man of well-considered views, and I think that politics must serve the people rather than making things difficult for them," Saburov said.

Under Ukrainian legislation, Saburov cannot be appointed to a state post because he is a Russian citizen. Answering a question from the UNIAN correspondent about his possibly obtaining Ukrainian citizenship, the Crimea's future deputy prime minister said he had not seen any relevant documents that would make it enforceable. This, in his words, is up to Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov, who proposed that he should form and lead the republican government. "I accepted his proposal, so the Crimean president—as a lawyer—must put

it into practice. Of course, one can recall similar precedents in Estonia and Armenia where other states' citizens head government structures," Saburov noted. The wish of those concerned with their country, in his view, is to attract professionals to manage the economy.

On the subject of the Crimea's purely economic problems—in particular, introducing the parallel use of the Russian ruble and the Ukrainian karbovanets on the Crimean peninsula and the possible self-financing of this autonomous republic—Saburov added: "Telling representatives of the Russian mass media about agreeing with Kiev on the issue of the Crimea's 'rublization', I quoted Yuriy Meshkov as saying this on his visit to Moscow. This step would be beneficial both to the Crimea and Ukraine. As for self-financing of the autonomy, this question is still to be studied. Everything depends on the taxation basis and budgetary regulation."

Kravchuk Issues Edict on Foreign Observers at Elections

AU1702202594 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 15 Feb 94 p 2

["Ukrainian Presidential Edict on Provisions for the Accommodation in Ukraine of Official Observers From Foreign States and International Organizations During the 1994 Elections" issued in Kiev on 10 February]

[Text] In order to organize the accommodation in Ukraine of official observers from foreign states and international organizations during the preparation for and holding of the elections of people's deputies on 27 March 1994 and of the Ukrainian president, chairmen of local councils, and deputies of local councils on 26 June 1994, I decree as follows:

1. To support the proposals by Ukraine's Supreme Council Presidium and the Central Electoral Commission on the Elections of Ukraine's People's Deputies and to create a Working Group for Accommodating in Ukraine of Official Observers From Foreign States and International Organizations at the 1994 Elections (hereafter—Working Group).

2. To approve the composition of the Working Group.

3. To approve the Plan for Organizational Measures on the Accommodation in Ukraine of Official Observers From Foreign States and International Organizations at the 1994 Elections.

4. Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers must resolve, within 10 days, questions of material, technological, financial, and other types of provision for the accommodation in Ukraine of official observers from foreign states and international organizations.

5. The Council of Ministers of the Crimean Republic, local councils of people's deputies, and local state administrations must ensure the organization of work and services for official observers from foreign states and international organizations.

6. This edict becomes effective on the day of its signing.

[Signed] Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk
[Dated] Kiev, 10 February 1994

Minister Criticizes Tripartite Accord

AU1702124194 Lvov ZA VILNU UKRAYINU in Ukrainian 9 Feb 94 p 2

[Press Agency NOVYNY interview with Ukrainian Minister of Environmental Protection Yuriy Kostenko; place and date not given: "It Is Not Disarmament, But Stripping the State Bare"]

[Text] **Being convinced that the tripartite agreement on the fate of Ukrainian strategic missiles that he signed conforms to the parliamentary decree on this issue, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk asked the people's deputies to annul their reservations regarding Article 5 of the Lisbon Protocol and to adopt a decision on Ukraine joining the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as a nonnuclear state.**

This is how the Moscow statement was commented upon by Yuriy Kostenko, people's deputy, minister of environmental protection, and head of the special working group of deputies in charge of the preparation for ratifying START I and acquiring Ukraine's nonnuclear status.

[Kostenko] The Moscow tripartite statement has, in fact, offered an entirely different procedure for Ukraine's nuclear disarmament, a procedure different from what our Supreme Council decided on the issue. The new procedure does not take into account many aspects, associated both with Ukraine's national security and its economic interests. For this particular reason, the Moscow statement must be regarded as a totally different agreement and must be given a corresponding legal evaluation.

[NOVYNY] However, it is a statement and not an agreement. The parliament cannot ratify or refuse to ratify it.

[Kostenko] I realize this. The statement is formulated in such a manner as to make it impossible for the Supreme Council to consider it. These are so-called legal intrigues. However, one cannot overlook the fact that the supreme legislative body has adopted one procedure for nuclear disarmament and, at the same time, the executive power has proposed an entirely different one. That is why the Supreme Council, which has the right, ensured by the current Constitution, to discuss international agreements, also has the right to discuss this particular document and determine whether it is advantageous for

Ukraine or, perhaps, it should be vetoed as being at variance with Ukraine's interests. Moreover, I want to stress the following point: The work conducted by the Supreme Council would, in my opinion, make it possible to more or less coordinate Ukraine's interests with those of other states that seek Ukraine's nonnuclear status. I do not see Ukraine's interests, either economic or military, in the Moscow document. Nor do I see there any security guarantees for Ukraine, guarantees about which there has been so much talk.

[NOVYNY] How would you comment upon the fact that neither the statement, nor the supplement to it makes any mention of compensation for the tactical nuclear weapons transferred to Russia?

[Kostenko] This once again emphasizes the fact that there exist certain discrepancies between what the Supreme Council adopted and what the president signed. The parliament's decree states clearly that there must also be compensation for the tactical nuclear weapons, whereas the Moscow statement does not deal with this issue separately. As far as I am concerned, Russia is just promising to consider this question and give some compensation.

[NOVYNY] Is there any deadline for giving Ukraine compensation for the tactical nuclear weapons?

[Kostenko] No, no deadline has been specified. Besides, this is difficult to do, because nobody knows at the expense of what this compensation must be made. If it is done from the money received for those 500 tonnes of highly enriched uranium that Russia will sell to the United States, compensation may only be given to Ukraine after the uranium is sold on the world market. Only after that will Russia receive some real money and be able to give some monetary compensation. Today, there are no funds, absolutely nothing. It is true that there also exists such a variant (it might be the most acceptable one for Ukraine) as compensation for the cost of every warhead. This could be done, because it is known how much uranium or plutonium they contain, and, therefore, the cost of the tactical weapons transferred by us might be determined. In accordance with preliminary estimates, it is more than $10 billion. If we proceed from this sum, Russia is indebted to Ukraine and not the other way round, as we are being assured today. Speaking about energy sources, in view of the fact that uranium and plutonium are extremely valuable energy sources, it might be possible to make an equivalent exchange: We can give them highly enriched uranium and plutonium and they can give us oil and gas. Unfortunately, however, this procedure was not adopted, moreover, during the negotiations, such an element as plutonium was totally "omitted." It is a very expensive element. By various estimates, 1 kg of highly enriched plutonium may cost up to $1 million and 1 kg of highly enriched uranium $100,000. Just imagine the cost of the materials that we have already transferred to Russia.

[NOVYNY] Transferred with tactical weapons?

[Kostenko] Yes, with tactical weapons alone, we transferred to Russia about 10 tonnes of highly enriched plutonium and about 90 tonnes of highly enriched uranium. What happened in Moscow cannot be referred to as nuclear disarmament; it is the stripping of the state bare. Not only in military, but also in economic and political aspects.

[NOVYNY] The following information is known to have been leaked from presidential circles: If Ukraine had not agreed to concessions in Washington and in Boryspil, and then also in Moscow, it might have found itself in international political and economic isolation. What is your attitude to this?

[Kostenko] I cannot agree with this thesis, because it is not the availability of nuclear weapons that determines the possibility of international isolation, about which there is so much talk. Had it been so, all those states that presently create nuclear weapons would also have found themselves in isolation. Today, there are about 20 countries worldwide that either have their own nuclear weapons, or are about to create them. These are so-called threshold states, which are in violation of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Ukraine proceeds along the road toward nuclear disarmament, and, for that reason, it cannot constitute an obstacle to anyone.

That we do not, today, have effective economic ties with other countries points to one circumstance only—the absence of reforms in Ukraine. We do not make a single step toward reforms, and as long as there are no reforms, industrial circles and financiers with large capital will not be interested in cooperating with Ukraine or in investing in its economy. That is why, if somebody says, today, that nuclear weapons have brought about Ukraine's international isolation, it will be an erroneous assessment of the situation that has taken shape. We will soon become convinced of this. Even after the entire disarmament strategy proposed by our president is implemented, investments will not flow into Ukraine all the same. They will nor flow as long as there are no real reforms. Incidentally, this was also stressed by Mr. Clinton, who said that Ukraine would only be given $175 million and the rest when economic reforms begin to be implemented.

Belarus

Premier Reported To Reshuffle Apparatus

MK1702140094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 17 Feb 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Kebich Reorganizes Apparatus"]

[Text] The State Secretariat on Combating Crime and on National Security has been abolished by directive by Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich. Instead, government sources report, a directorate on the coordination of administrative organs' activity led by Valeriy Pavlov, former first deputy state secretary, has been created. Simultaneously, a new position has been introduced in the Council of Ministers apparatus—government secretary for national security, whose rank is close to that of ambassador at large. Appointed to this post has been the former state secretary, Gennadiy Danilov, whom observers in Minsk describe as one of the most influential people among those closest to the premier.

Hryb Outlines Position on Political System, Elections

WS1702155994 Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA in Belarusian 15 Feb 94 p 1

[Report on interview with Supreme Soviet Chairman Mechyslaw Hryb by Aleh Hrudzilovich at the Dzyarzhynski kolkhoz on 12 February: "Mechyslaw Hryb: 'If We Do Not Restore Discipline and Order, We Will Get Nowhere'"]

[Text] **As everybody knows, during his visit last Saturday [12 February] to the Dzyarzhynski kolkhoz in Dzyarzhynski rayon of Minsk Oblast, Supreme Soviet Chairman Mechyslaw Hryb outlined his program for political reforms. As a matter of fact, he repeated the same things he had said at a meeting with the staff of the Minsk pharmaceutical plant on the previous day. Also addressed at the meeting were today's most urgent problems.**

"We have lost control over our Republic." With this sad remark, the chairman began his analysis of the current situation. He is convinced that the lack of control will be remedied when Belarus defines its political system (Belarus and Tajikistan are the only former republics of the USSR not to have done so yet), and the presidential office is instituted. Presidential elections could be held as early as June, and if the results are positive, the Supreme Soviet elections might be held another three months later. The president will form a government that will be approved by the new legislature. All these changes should be based on a new constitution and electoral law. As the chairman noted, the Supreme Soviet Presidium has already drafted such a law. Should the current Supreme Soviet be unable to adopt these documents, Mechyslaw Hryb does not rule out the possibility of holding a referendum. He is convinced that it is impossible to continue with the old Constitution. The local soviet elections should complete the political reforms in the spring of 1995. As the chairman emphasized, the advantages of this scheme are a consistency of reforms, no power vacuum during the various stages of the process, and eventually a strong vertical power structure.

Although his comments on the current problems were rather brief, they were quite specific. For example, Mechyslaw Hryb completely supports economic union with Russia and the unification of the Russian and Belarusian monetary systems, because he does not see any other possible way of saving our economy and agricultural sector, which are in worse shape than their equivalents to the east. He believes that the Supreme Soviet and its Presidium should not dodge urgent economic problems or pass the buck to the Cabinet of Ministers. Regarding relations with the government, Mechyslaw Hryb supports friendly cooperation, and believes that the confrontation "which has been seen lately," must be halted.

Following his meeting with the kolkhoz staff, the Supreme Soviet chairman answered the following questions from a NARODNAYA GAZETA reporter.

[Reporter] **Yesterday, you discussed supplies of pharmaceuticals, and today you are dealing with agricultural problems. What results can the people expect from these "spot checks" by the new state leader?**

[Hryb] It is very helpful to hear people speaking personally about their problems—it is easier to find one's bearings and look for appropriate solutions. Regarding pharmaceuticals, I have come to the conclusion that it is better to define the groups of the most essential drugs, and concentrate our attention on them. Unless we concentrate on developing our pharmaceutical industry, drugs will be very expensive in Belarus, because we are still a far way from achieving Western standards of living.

[Reporter] **Yesterday it was health care, today it is agriculture. There are, however, more problems. What, in your opinion, must be solved first and foremost?**

[Hryb] I have already said—we must define our political system, no matter which direction we orient ourselves—West, East, South, or North. If we do not unite and restore discipline and order, we will get nowhere. Our people do not listen to anybody today.

[Reporter] When our paper is published on 15 February, strikers will be gathering in Independence Square, putting forward some very tough political demands. What would you like to tell them?

[Hryb] **I have already explained that I am generally against strikes. I am for solving problems diplomatically. If you have problems, let us sit down at the negotiating table and look for solutions. Every strike is an attempt to forcibly affect the results of talks. Of course, everybody has the right to express their opinion, but what will a strike bring? I see the solution as lying in the economic union and unification of monetary systems. Will a political strike advance this? I doubt it. On the contrary, it will**

push us even further away from it. However, if the strike is held in accordance with the law, I will have no right to ban it....

[Reporter] **You do not rule out the possibility of sitting down at the negotiating table with the strikers?**

[Hryb] No, I do not. There is only one "but".... We should respect one another. Nobody has yet called them criminals, as they are doing, for example, with regard to the government. Excuse me, but only a court is allowed to call someone a criminal.

[Reporter] **The proposals for political reform that you voiced yesterday and today reflect the position of the Supreme Soviet Presidium. Was this position unequivocal, or were other opinions voiced?**

[Hryb] The members of the Presidium were unequivocal, at least those who participated in the meeting. We decided that we should define our stance on all those issues—the presidential and early legislative elections. We should not delay them any longer. We will try to convince the deputies to give us support.

[Reporter] **There is an option of holding presidential elections at the Supreme Soviet, not in a nationwide ballot. What is your attitude toward this?**

[Hryb] I know about this alternative, but I advocate nationwide elections. This, though, will depend on our decision on the political system. If we become a parliamentary republic, the president, as everybody knows, will have to be elected at a Supreme Soviet session—there will be no sense in holding nationwide elections. Nevertheless, I am for a strong, democratically elected president, and I hope that the Supreme Soviet will support me on this. [end Hryb]

On the eve of the meeting with the kolkhoz workers and this interview, Mechyslaw Hryb was shown the working conditions of milkers and machine operators, and visited a kindergarten and high school in the village of Petkavichy.

Defense Ministry Denies Preparations To Fight Strikers

WS1702181394 Minsk VO SLAVU RODINY in Russian 15 Feb 94 p 1

[Statement by the press center of the Belarusian Defense Ministry]

[Text] In spite of the fact that the Defense Ministry has repeatedly explained its position on the likely scenario of events that might take place on 15 February, political brouhaha and various kinds of speculation on this are continuing. Indeed, there is not a single stupid thing left which politically-minded journalists have not thought up by now.

The most vivid example of this is a commentary, featured in the "Krok" [Step] television program on 12 February 1994, on a visit by Defense Minister Colonel General Kozlovskiy with a military unit stationed in Maryina Gorka. The meeting of the minister with the personnel was blatantly and deliberately distorted and pitched to the audience as some kind of "instruction" to the unit on "how to combat strikers."

Meanwhile, the position of the Armed Forces at this difficult time remains constructive and clear: Stability and public accord are the precondition for successful reforms in our Republic and the bedrock for its well-being and prosperity. A systematic training process is under way in the Armed Forces now. Training events are to be conducted in subunits, units, and staffs in the immediate future, and thereafter. The Defense Ministry has no intention whatsoever of altering its combat training schedule to suit the current political situation. Let the politicians and journalists with too lively an imagination have their speculations on their own consciences. No one will manage to "bring the Army out of its barracks," out of the legal space prescribed to it by law which it occupies today. The Armed Forces have always been, and they will always be, the guarantor of public stability and security.

The dangerous virus of civil strifes and political feuds has not yet spread onto Belarusian territory. It is a strong conviction of the Defense Ministry that no one today, too, will manage to embroil the Belarusian people and their Armed Forces in political adventures!"

Government Seen 'Reassuring Itself' Over Strike Outcome

PM1702162794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Feb 94 First Edition p 2

[Aleksandr Starikevich report: "Fixture Between the Strike Committee and the Government Postponed Until 22 February"]

[Text] Minsk—The events of 15 February showed that the workers' movement in the republic is not yet strong enough to dictate its will to the authorities or even to make them heed the opinion of the strike committees. The situation could change in the very near future, however, if the monetary systems of Russia and Belarus are not united.

The participants in the protest action handed demands for the government's resignation and for the holding of early parliamentary elections to Supreme Soviet Chairman Mechyslaw Hryb. The speaker was instructed to reply before 22 February. The next demonstration by strikers is scheduled for that day. But for the time being the strikers intend to utilize Polish experience and hold local strikes—at two or three enterprises each day—and to postpone mass measures until the said deadline expires.

Summing up the results of the first day of the strike, it is possible to point out that the government succeeded in keeping the situation under control thanks to simple

measures: the payment of wages, the sending of potentially dangerous people on compulsory leave, etc. But the ground under its feet is becoming increasingly shaky. A social explosion could be provoked by any incident, even an insignificant one. It was no coincidence that the Supreme Council became hysterical over the recent increase in bread prices. The prime minister declared from the parliamentary rostrum at the time that the Council of Ministers had nothing to do with it and promised to reduce prices and to punish the guilty persons. It is hard to guess when and where "holes will appear" next time, and there is still a question mark over whether the government will have time to "stop up the holes." If the suspiciously delayed signing of the agreements on uniting the monetary systems does not take place or produce the desired results, then it is most likely that no additional grounds for the people to voice their displeasure will be required: Too many promissory notes for this economic miracle have been given out.

So far officials have made no comment at all on the first day of the strike. But their viewpoint on what is happening is already known. Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich has called the strike a "loathsome step." He was, as usual, supported by the communists—which shows once again who sits [zasedayet] in the government. The mass media controlled by the Council of Ministers have declared that the strike committees' action failed. But the government seems thereby to be trying to reassure primarily itself.

Union Federation Leader on Stike Outcome

WS1702210694 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1815 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Vladimir Hancharyk, chairman of the Council of the Belarusian Trade Union Federation, held a press conference today at the National Press Center. As is known, the Federation did not support the general political strike set for 15 February. Let us remind you that the question is open as the strike was postponed to 22 February—the day when the Belarusian Supreme Soviet will resume its session. The official trade unions, too, may join the strike movement. Explaining the position of Belarusian unions and, so to say, dotting all the i's and crossing all the t's, Vladimir Hancharyk, the Council chairman, commented on the current situation.

[Begin recording] [Hancharyk] The political strike did fail. That is a fact. But the fact also is that public discontent is extremely high. The reason why the strike has not taken place—and we have repeatedly stressed this—is that it was premature and poorly prepared. The main emphasis was put on spontaneous rallies rather than well organized ones. Generally speaking, the issue of strikes should be handled based on a good preparation, and not on reasoning. Let us hold up traffic, or something to this effect. This is especially conspicuous when we take a look at the strike participants. There were very few workers. Most of the strikers included intellectuals, students, and some of our activists. People avoid going to extremes. They are afraid to lose their jobs. This is why people decided to stay out of it.

[Announcer] To stabilize the social and economic situation of the Republic, the union Federation presented its demands. First, the Belarusian Supreme Soviet should call early legislative elections no later than this October. Second, the Cabinet of Ministers should urgently revamp and reconstruct the government during the ongoing session. Unless the above demands are not met, Hancharyk said the reaction of trade unions will be firm.

[Hancharyk] We have come to the conclusion that the Federation's position should be pretty tough. The clock will start ticking from 22 February, the session's first day of work after a break. The Federation's Presidium is to convene on 23 February to determine our further actions. If the Supreme Soviet does not examine the above issue, we will have to cast a secret ballot, as provided by law, in our local organizations, followed by massive rallies in early March. But this time, these will be organized rallies. I am talking about a warning strike. According to the law, we have three hours. As for the laws, all of them have a distinct anti-union orientation. The issue of political strikes is still not settled in our country. So whether they want it or not, all protesters and strike organizers will violate the law. I would like to emphasize that what we did not like about the political strike is the very principle of resolving this issue. It boils down to the following [word indistinct]. The government should resign, while the Supreme Soviet sets a date for early elections and dissolves itself.

Following this plan, we would end up with a caretaker government, which is not legitimate, as a matter of fact. Of course, there are no guarantees that this process will unfold in a civilized way.

[Announcer] So, it is clear that the official trade unions are going to (?find a common language) with the government in the beginning of [words indistinct]. Asked about the political role of the Federation in Belarus, its chairman said the following.

[Hancharyk] We do not want to play any political role. Our Statute limits our political activities to participating in the elections. At present, however, it is impossible to solve economic problems in isolation with the political ones. Willy-nilly, trade unions cannot stay away from politics today. [end recording]

Iraqi Fighter Planes Stranded Due to UN Embargo

LD1702192394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1628 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Alexander Tushinsky, First Deputy Defense Minister of Belarus, told Interfax Thursday [17 February] that he did not know what to do about the 13 SU-17 fighter planes that are the property of Iraq in Belarus.

Nearly three years ago when the USSR still existed the jets arrived in the city of Baranovichi for repairs. They

could not be sent back because of the UN embargo that was imposed after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Tushinsky said that they jets could be taken over by Russia when the former USSR's military hardware was divided between its republics but Russia did not want them.

Moldova

Foreign Minister on Russian Ties, Federation

WS1702130094 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 17 Feb 94 p 17

[Interview with Foreign Affairs Minister Ion Botnaru, by Jerzy Haszczynski; place and date not given: "Problems Inherited From Soviet Union"]

[Text] **[Haszczynski] When the Soviet Union was collapsing, the Moldovan authorities expressed their criticism of the concept of the CIS. But last year, Moldova joined the CIS anyway. How do you explain the change of attitude?**

[Botnaru] Our links with the CIS are of a specific nature. We are a de facto member of the CIS's economic union, but not de iure, since we have not ratified the appropriate documents. My view is that from an economic standpoint, Moldova should be in the CIS's economic union since that is the real situation from which we cannot get away. Our economic relations with the West still leave a lot to be desired, but one must live somehow until that situation changes. Generally speaking, the economic relations of a new country should be multifaceted.

[Haszczynski] Is Moldova interested in the CIS only from an economic standpoint?

[Botnaru] We do not participate in the CIS's military and political structures. So far, we have not signed any agreements which would relate, for instance, to security. What is important, is what shape the CIS will take in the future. Experience shows that those countries which have traditionally been together, can make their lots easier if they act together. But one should take part in such cooperation arrangements only insofar as it does not endanger a country's sovereignty.

[Haszczynski] Do you not feel threatened by Russia?

[Botnaru] I regard our relations with Russia to be correct, but there are still many problems which were inherited from the Soviet Union, first of all the problem of the 14th Russian Army which is stationed in Moldova. In my view, all problems can be solved if both sides conduct a dialogue. I paid a visit to Moscow recently, where I spoke with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. We listed the unresolved problems in Russian-Moldovan relations and we signed a bilateral agreement. Moldova has ratified it but Russia has not done so yet, and because of that, solving other problems is being delayed, for instance the problem of gasoline supplies to former Soviet military personnel residing in Moldova.

A withdrawal of the 14th Army would have an exceptionally positive impact on the development of Russian-Moldovan relations. The problem of the Cisdniester region is linked to that.

We think that some elements of Russia's relations with the Cisdniester region could be described as interference in Moldova's internal affairs. I mean the issue of Russian aid for the Cisdniester region, both in material and political terms.

[Haszczynski] Was there any specific date set during your Moscow talks, for the 14th Army's withdrawal from the usurpatory Cisdniester Republic?

[Botnaru] Moldova's position is that the Russian Army should withdraw by 1 July of this year. I regard that date as realistic. Despite everything, there are fewer [Russian] troops on our territory than used to be the case with Poland or other East European countries. The withdrawal should be unconditional and in accordance with international law and CSCE provisions. Talks are under way. Moldova is absolutely against having foreign troops stationed on its territory. I want to remind you that all countries recognize Moldova within the boundaries in which it proclaimed its independence in 1991, and that includes the Cisdniester region.

[Haszczynski] How do you imagine a calming down of the situation in the Cisdniester region? After all, fights have already erupted there a few times and hundreds of people have died. Is it possible, for instance, that Moldova should be transformed into a federation?

[Botnaru] No. I think that the variety of nationalities and their distribution in the various regions, make a federal state impossible. Moldova is a small territory (33,700 square km) which would be split into many small units if a federation was to be established. Besides, the base criterion of a federation is not completely clear, either. We used to live in the Soviet Union and we were told then that it was a federation.

As far as the Cisdniester region is concerned, we granted very far-reaching concessions and we guaranteed that if the issue of Moldova's joining Romania came up, then the people of the Cisdniester region could decide the territory's fate through a referendum. Almost all political forces in Moldova think that the Cisdniester region should have some kind of special status. The necessity of a decentralization is linked with that. Some amendments to our laws are indispensable, including the law on languages. We must talk about a possibility of using several languages in the country's offices: Let us say one of them would be called the state language (Romanian), and the other two would be called official languages (Ukrainian and Russian). The new parliament and the new cabinet should start working on these changes soon.

[Haszczynski] **Do you really believe in a compromise? After all, the authorities of the Trans-Dniester region have announced that the region will take part neither in the parliamentary elections (27 February) nor in the referendum on Moldova's sovereignty and integrity (6 March).**

[Botnaru] We do not seek the authorities' participation, especially given that these are not lawful authorities. We are after the people's participation; the usurpatory authorities' control does not extend to the entire Cisdniester region. There are areas and villages which cooperate with us. According to what we have found out, the people living in the parts not under the control of the usurpatory regime, will vote.

[Haszczynski] **In official documents, your country is known as the Republic of Moldova. Do the authorities of the republic (which gained independence more than two years ago) think that using the old name of "Moldavia" (which was used in the Soviet period, among others) is inappropriate?**

[Botnaru] "Moldavia" is a word of Russian origin. Right now, Romanian is our official language, and in Romanian, our country's name is "Moldova." But we have nothing against someone using the Russian-derived name in newspapers, for instance, as long as the name is used with respect.

[Haszczynski] **How strong are the desires of Moldova to join Romania, to which most of today's Moldova had belonged before World War II?**

[Botnaru] There are opposition political forces both in Moldova and in Romania, which are in favor of a merger of the two countries. I think the opposition is shortsighted. There will be a referendum on 6 March which will finally decide the issue of Moldova's sovereignty. But a referendum like this had taken place before—I mean the presidential elections of 1991. The main slogan of the election campaign of Mircea Snegur—who gained over 80 percent of the vote—was Moldova's independence. A majority of Moldovans (Romanians) is in favor of independence. Almost all representatives of national minorities are against the merger, as well; these minorities comprise about 30 percent of the population. I think that those who are in favor of merging with Romania comprise no more than 5 percent.

[Haszczynski] **But still, Moldova's national flag is the same as Romania's (three vertical stripes—blue, yellow, and red) and the national anthem—which begins with the words: "Wake up, Romanian"—is also the same.**

[Botnaru] The colors of the flag are indeed the same, but there is a state emblem on our flag. I think that since the parliament adopted the flag along with the state symbol, then that is the way it must stay, especially since, for instance, the Russian and the French flags have the same colors and their combination is the only thing that makes them different. So I can see no problem with the national flag.

But it is a different story with the national anthem. A sovereign state should have its own national anthem. As a diplomat, I often encounter this protocol problem. My view is that the anthem must be changed. One must write a new anthem and the parliament should adopt it. And that will not be an unfriendly gesture toward anybody, since nowhere in the world do you have a situation of two sovereign states sharing the same national anthem.

[Haszczynski] **In your view, what should one call representatives of the nationality which constitutes the majority in Moldova? Are they Romanians or Moldovans? Is the language that they use Romanian or Moldavian (as it was called in the times of the Soviet Union)? President Mircea Snegur has recently expressed criticism about using "a Romanian," "Romanian," instead of "a Moldovan," "Moldovan."**

[Botnaru] It is a unique kind of problem—it contains elements of history, as well as linguistic, psychological, and ethnic sciences. I would not like to go into such details. What is more important is that Moldova be transformed into a country of its citizens. Everyone should have a right to be called what he wants.

[Haszczynski] **On 14-16 February, you paid a visit to Warsaw. You spoke with President Lech Walesa, Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak, and Foreign Minister Andrzej Olechowski. What are Moldova's political and economic expectations vis-a-vis Poland?**

[Botnaru] Poland's and Moldova's economies complement one another, so they can cooperate with each other as well. Some contracts have already been prepared pertaining to avoiding double taxation and protecting investments. Polish people will like our alcohol—wines, high-quality champagnes, and cognacs. On a more serious note, Poland can import from Moldova agricultural products, broadly speaking. We are aware that Polish businessmen are afraid to invest because of the conflict in the Cisdniester region, but the conditions for investment will improve soon.

Poland is an active country and its voice counts on the international scene. It is a big country with big possibilities. We regret that our two countries have, so far, failed to set up a legal framework for our mutual relations. We are happy to take note of the establishment of a Polish Embassy in Chisinau in the near future. I do not hide the fact that we hope to receive assistance from the Polish authorities on issues where we have problems. The 14th Russian Army is stationed in Moldova, whereas Polish people have experience when it comes to the withdrawal of Russian troops.

Snegur Gives Dniester Residents Special Voting Rights

LD1802044494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1839 GMT 17 Feb 94

[By Itar-Tass correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Kishinev, 17 Feb TASS—Today President Mircea Snegur issued a decree giving the inhabitants of the Dniester's left bank regions and the town of Bendery the right to vote up to a week early in Moldova's forthcoming parliamentary elections. This has been done in view of the boycott of the elections announced by the Dniester authorities.

To prevent the opening of polling stations, a special situation was introduced there by a decree of Igor Smirnov, the Dnestr Region leader. Armed posts were placed in some populated areas and on bridges across the Dniester. People engaging in the election campaign are being detained. The Moldovan leadership fears that on the election day - 27 February - the population of the left bank regions will be afraid to cross the Dniester and come to the polling stations opened on the right bank. Therefore, under Mircea Snegur's decree, the citizens of the Dniester Region will be allowed to vote during the week beginning 21 February.

Dniester Leader Approves of CSCE Recommendations

LD1702130894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1150 GMT 17 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau February 17 TASS—Igor Smirnov, leader of the Dniester region, has described as constructive the recommendations of the CSCE mission in Moldova on a peaceful settlement of the Dniester conflict. The mission is suggesting the division of authority between Chisinau and Tiraspol along with the preservation of the territorial integrity of Moldova. The Dniester region will be given the right to self-determination, if Moldova wishes to form a single state with Romania.

According to a statement of the Dniester leader, circulated today, Smirnov had a meeting with the CSCE mission in Tiraspol and asked its representatives to be mediators and guarantors at talks with the Moldovan leaders on a peaceful settlement of the conflict. The Tiraspol leader told representatives of the European conference that elections to the Moldovan parliament would not be held in the Dniester region, since the problem of granting a special legal status to the region has not yet been settled.

However, the authoritier will not create obstacles for those who want to take part in the voting on the right-bank part of the Moldovan territory. Smirnov said he was ready to meet Moldovan leaders and hold talks with them on a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev on 'Negative' U.S. Understanding of Iran

LD1702202394 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] In a meeting with President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev, U.S. President Clinton has asked him to stay away from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Announcing the above in a gathering of reporters in New York yesterday, Nazarbayev said: The U.S. Government has a negative understanding of the Iranian Government. He referred to the special significance of the role played by Iran in the southern and central Asian equations and emphasized that relations between Almaty and Tehran are very good.

The Kazakh president, rejecting the existence of a threat of Islamic fundamentalism in Central Asia, stressed: We are all Muslims and respect Islamic beliefs. However, Nazarbayev said: A line has been drawn separating religion and politics in Kazakhstan. The Kazakh president said: Washington and Almaty have reached agreements in political, economic, scientific, technological, and defense fields as well as the U.S. use of Kazakhstan's space center and America has promised to provide $300 million of aid to Kazakhstan.

Ukrainian Delegation Holds Talks, Signs Document

LD1602224694 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1530 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Almaty, 16 Feb—A working meeting of delegations from Ukraine's Defense Ministry and the Republic of Kazakhstan's Defense Ministry has taken place. The delegations were headed by: on the Ukrainian side, Colonel General Ivan Oliynyk, deputy defense minister of Ukraine and chief of armaments; on the Kazakh side Major General Alibek Isymov, chief of the General Staff of Kazakhstan's Armed Forces. The prospects for extending cooperation and implementing agreements made at the level of the countries' government delegations at the beginning of 1994 were discussed.

A document was signed on the results of the meeting in Almaty, in which the sides noted great interest in extending contacts between the military departments of the two countries on a wide range of issues. The principles of mutual respect and mutual confidence are to be laid down in the foundations of these relations. The Ukrainian side showed readiness for military-technical and scientific cooperation in elaborating new types of technology, modernizing armaments already in existence, and developing the missile and space possibilities of the two countries. The Kazakh side is interested in more intensive use of the repair base in the interests of Kazakhstan's armed forces. It is planned to finalize and make specific the nature of mutual settlements and to study the possibility of eliminating existing debts in the near future. As participants of the meeting asserted, this type of bilateral contact corresponds to the bilateral obligations and desires of both Ukraine and Kazakhstan not to suppress the interests of a single third country.

Tajikistan

Prime Minister on Ruble Zone, Other Topics

PM1702101594 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Feb 94 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Prime Minister Abdudzhalil Samadov by Igor Lenskiy in Moscow; date not given: "Raining Rubles Over the Pamirs. What Will They Water: Bare Rocks or Plowland?"]

[Text] Abdudzhalil Samadov, the new prime minister of Tajikistan, has paid an unofficial working visit to Moscow.

Samadov is a 44-year-old economist from an academic scientific background, a specialist in textile production, one of the most civilian sectors there is, he has the "bearing" of a desk-bound scientist, and at the same time he is...a chess player! Furthermore, he is a chess master. In 1965 the present Tajik premier played Anatoliy Karpov. This was at the junior championship of what was then our united country.

The visit was devoted entirely to the principles and implications of Tajikistan's entry into the ruble zone. It is no exaggeration to say that this fundamental question will determine the fate not only of the lifeless economy but also of the whole of Tajik statehood. That is why Russia has offered Tajikistan far easier terms than it has offered the other Central Asian states.

Before his departure for Dushanbe, Prime Minister A. Samadov received our correspondent. Here is what he said:

[Samadov] I have done the rounds of the leaders of Russia's ministries and state committees, scientific and business circles, and Federation Council and State Duma deputies so as to get them to understand the difficulties which await our economy in 1994. And also to discuss the first steps in multifaceted Russian-Tajik cooperation on the basis that Tajikistan has been defined as a state belonging to the ruble zone. The task ahead of us is to create a socially oriented market economy.

[Lenskiy] Abdudzhalil Akhadovich, how do you assess the current living standard in Tajikistan?

[Samadov] The fall in the living standard of the people, who have endured two dreadful years, the war, and its aftermath, is not a foundation on which you can talk about rapid successes and transformations. But the government does not want to appear to be at a loss before

the people, it knows its people and it believes in their strength. Tajikistan's future will depend primarily on peace.

[Lenskiy] On what terms is Russia inviting Tajikistan to join the ruble zone?

[Samadov] It is too early to talk about terms. This is a process which has only just begun. A group of Russian experts is flying out with us to Tajikistan today to determine the timing and details of the transitional stage and, most importantly, the mutual responsibility which the two states are assuming.

[Lenskiy] So this is not a one-shot event, as many people in our country think?

[Samadov] This is a lengthy and difficult process. It is important that both sides have the will to realize their plans.

[Lenskiy] Last year Tajikistan was granted a credit of 120 billion. Has that made it possible to revive the economy perhaps a little?

[Samadov] The last thing that we intend to do is simply to fritter that money away. Only the minimum resources are being channeled into supporting the low living standard which exists, mainly into the purchase of grain. The bulk of the credit has been used to restore the activity of production structures so as to step up commodity exchange with the CIS countries, first and foremost with Russia. Some 87 percent of our economic ties are with Russian enterprises.

[Lenskiy] In what sectors of the national economy is the closest cooperation between our states envisaged?

[Samadov] We are ready to supply our Russian partners with as much raw cotton as possible. And we will ask Russia to supply us with energy sources and chemical products for agriculture.

[Lenskiy] As is well known, trainloads of freight destined for Tajikistan have been blocked in the past few days on the Uzbek-Tajik border. I have heard diplomats say that this is because your neighbors are jealous at your integration into the ruble zone....

[Samadov] I do not think that this is Uzbekistan's official position. We will sort things out. At the level of bilateral relations.

[Lenskiy] You are often criticized for not holding a dialogue with the internal opposition....

[Samadov] We have begun progress in that direction. We are holding consultations with other countries within the framework of the CIS and the United Nations. We realize that it is hardly going to be possible to settle anything without such dialogue.

[Lenskiy] Each month 7,000 Russian-speakers leave Tajikistan. A further 120,000 are still living there. But within a year or two there could be none left. Does such a prospect worry you?

[Samadov] Of course it does. But it is not only Tajikistan which has to take measures. It is up to the whole Commonwealth to help to stabilize the political situation, ease the tension on the border, and bar the way to armed groupings once and for all.

It is not just Russians who are leaving but Tajiks too—hundreds of thousands have already left their homeland. We await the return of all who once lived here and who call themselves Tajiks.

Samadov on 'Breakthrough' in Ties With Russia

LD1702185694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1645 GMT 17 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS political correspondent Yuriy Sizov]

[Text] Moscow February 17 TASS—Tajik Prime Minister Abdudzhalil Samadov said Russia and Tajikistan may reach a serious breakthrough in bilateral relations in 1994.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS on Thursday following the talks with Russian officials that ended last week, Samadov said that Tajikistan "is destined to success only with Russia."

He said that Russian troops and the troops of other CIS states on the Tajik-Afghan border are a "powerful stabilising factor." Russia's presence in Tajikistan has helped avert "a large-scale armed interference of militants from Afghanistan into Tajikistan."

Speaking about the prospects for normalising the situation in the republic, the premier called for intensifying the political dialogue, including with representatives of the opposition who are seeking to restore peace in Tajikistan. "This should be done as soon as possible without setting any dates or preliminary conditions. This process should involve international organisations, primarily the United Nations, Russia and Central Asian republics," Samadov said. "Our government is ready to take the necessary steps to begin the process."

He stressed that his government "is ready for a dialogue with those who favour democratic development of Tajikistan." "Without any preliminary conditions we need to reach an understanding on joining our efforts to promote complex political, economic and social integration processes that are under way in Tajikistan this year," the premier said.

Asked if Tajikistan plans to sell raw uranium to Arab states and Iran, Samadov replied that "I am sure that the process of selling uranium made in the republic, which is being monitored by respective international organisations, will proceed in the same way as it has been proceeding until today. I state that any attempts to link

Tajikistan with countries seeking to involve it in the development of their uranium programmes are doomed. The exception is the countries with which we have steady relations in this field, primarily Russia. These attempts are doomed politically too."

Commenting on the situation in the Central Asian region, Samadov pointed out to Tajikistan's relations with neighbouring Uzbekistan. "Our government has put inter-state relations, if we speak about the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Tajikistan, on a constructive basis, the basis of mutual understanding of specific problems and the assessment of the substantial assistance provided by the Republic of Uzbekistan at the period of hardships in 1992-1993," the premier said.

"I feel responsible for building such a system of economic and political relations which would ensure that the assistance and support we have received will be returned, but without damaging our own interests and with due account of the circumstances in this or that republic," Samadov said.

"As for the Tajik and Uzbek people, I am sure that considering the centuries-old historic ties that have been established on the vast expanses of Central Asia, these relations cannot be other than peaceful and all attempts to provoke an aggravation of these relations will be checked," the prime minister stressed.

Foreign Minister on Role of CIS Peacekeeping Forces

LD1602173494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1439 GMT 16 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Mikhail Voronenkov]

[Text] Moscow February 16 TASS—"The activities of CIS joint peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan aim, for the first time in the United Nations' practice, to prevent a conflict", Tajik Foreign Minister Rashid Olimov told TASS on Wednesday.

He described this as a key pattern not yet widely accepted by the international community. "It is not by accident that we in Tajikistan speak about preventive diplomacy, about the need for the world community to take steps necessary to prevent a conflict rather than to bring it to the 'boiling-point', just what we can see now in Bosnia-Herzegovina", the minister noted.

When Tajik diplomats, together with their Russian, Uzbek, Kazakh and Kyrgyz collegues raise in the United Nations a question of granting the CIS joint peacekeeping forces a U.N. mandate, we mean exactly this factor, Olimov stressed.

Three Servicemen Killed in Attack on Security Unit

LD1802104394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1012 GMT 18 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe February 18 TASS—Three servicemen of the Tajik National Security Committee were killed and three others wounded as a result of last night's attack on a security unit deployed in the "Pravda" collective farm, located in Pyanj district, near the border with Afghanistan. The raid is believed to have been launched by a Tajik opposition gang, operating on the territory of Tajikistan.

Terroristic acts against servicemen of the Tajik national armed forces have lately become increasingly frequent. A short while ago some unidentified terrorists killed in Kurgan-Tyube, the administrative centre of Hatlon region, Colonel Mirzo Saydov, chief of staff of a special-purpose brigade of the Tajik Defence Ministry. Fire was opened somewhat earlier on a car, carrying Colonel Nurali Sharaliyev, deputy defence minister of Tajikistan, who was going from Kurgan-Tyube to Dushanbe.

Turkmenistan

Niyazov Resumes Work After Surgery in U.S.

LD1402181194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1705 GMT 14 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Glazovskaya]

[Text] Ashgabat February 14 TASS—President of Turkmenistan Saparmurad Niyazov has resumed his duties after undergoing a successful operation in the United States. On Monday [14 February] he chaired a Cabinet of Ministers meeting, which was, appropriately, mainly devoted to health care problems.

Referring to the famous saying that "every cloud has a silver lining", the president stressed the importance of his stay in the U.S. in terms of establishing further contacts, especially in the field of medicine. According to Niyazov, that would help Turkmenistan soon begin implementing its health care programme. The current level of medical services is poor and makes such a programme necessary.

The Turkmenistan president, who had an operation done on his legs, was able achieve agreement on the establishment jointly with American specialists of a clinical centre of health care in Ashgabat.

Armenia

Karabakh Forces Reportedly Check Azerbaijani Advance

NC1702161094 Yerevan SNARK in English 1421 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Stepanakert, February 16 (SNARK)—Today, about 4 am, the Azerbaijani troops, supported by the considerable quantity of armoured cars and tanks, took the advance on Martuni-Fizuli direction of Karabakh front. However, SNARK's reporter informed from the Press-Service of the Karabakh Defense Army that Karabakh defenders had succeeded to hold in check the enemy, and after that by the 8 am hurled back the enemy to the previous position. The information concerning the losses of both sides is making exact. Yesterday despite a cold and snowfall there were the battles for the important hillocks at the North of the Kelbadzharskiy and Mardakertskiy regions. Today morning the situation on the front was characterized by skirmishes.

Two Azerbaijani Warplanes Shot Down

NC1702213594 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 2050 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Two Azerbaijani warplanes, an Su-24 and an Su-25, entered Vardenisskiy Rayon at 1500 today. The first started to carry out a reconnaissance flight over Sodk [formerly Zod] and (Kurts). Overflying (Kurts), the second plane swerved toward the rayon center but had no time to bomb the city. It broke into pieces and fell in Vardenisskiy Rayon after being hit by a missile fired by the Armenian Republic's Air Defense Forces. The other plane quickly flew off.

The Armenian Defense Ministry Press Service reported that the two pilots of the downed plane were captured.

While the neighboring republic expresses readiness to stop the military operations during the Olympic games, it also sends military airplanes to bomb our Republic's peaceful border settlements.

The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's [NKR] Air Defense Forces shot down another Azerbaijani Air Force plane today over the north of the Karabakh war front. Details of the case are not yet known.

According to reports received from the NKR Defense Army headquarters at 1700, the Karabakh units repulsed the attack launched by the Azerbaijani side against Agburun in Martuninskiy Rayon this morning. There was no report of casualty figures.

Azerbaijan

Gasanov, Georgia's Chikvaidze Discuss Collective Security

NC1702152494 Baku TURAN in English 1147 GMT 16 Feb 94

[Text] Baku (February 16) TURAN—Azerbaijan considers that mechanism of the CIS Treaty on Collective Security must be implemented not only in case of foreign aggression against the CIS-member state, but in case of the aggression of one CIS-member state against the other member, Azeri Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov said on February 15 during the meeting with the Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze.

As Gasan Gasanov said "in this context the Treaty on Collective Security of the CIS-member states need serious revision."

The both ministers shared the opinion that domestic conflicts in the CIS seriously threat the perspectives of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Defense Ministry Says Armenian Attacks Repulsed

NC1802083994 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 17 Feb 94

["Text" of the Ministry of Defense Press Service communique dated 17 February—read by announcer]

[Text] The latest attacks launched by the Armenian Armed Forces have been repulsed. The enemy units were taught a deserved lesson and withdrew to their previous positions. The situation at the front lines is relatively peaceful at present. Taking advantage of the peaceful situation, Azerbaijan's engineering and [word indistinct] units have continued removing mines from the liberated territories.

Azerbaijanis Near Kelbadzhar Heights

NC1702155894 Baku Radio Baku International Service in Azeri 1300 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] The Armenian Armed Forces have maintained their attacks on Azerbaijan's positions in Kelbadzharskiy, Terterskiy, and Fizulinskiy Rayons without a halt during the past few days. The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry Press Service has revealed that the enemy attacks were rebuffed and the Armenian military units forced to retreat to their previous positions.

Reports from Azerbaijan's occupied areas said the Armenian military units are being forced to maintain their attacks regardless of the casualties they suffer. That's because they are being fired on by special obstructive units in the rear lines. Those units are made up of Armenians from Karabakh and other criminal elements.

The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry has informed a correspondent from [name indistinct] newspaper that the

Azerbaijani National Army units killed 318 enemy troops, destroyed six tanks, and disabled seven armored vehicles and four trucks in their recent combat operations.

Reports say that 850 occupation units were urgently dispatched from Armenia to Azerbaijan's Karabakh region during the past two days. Most of them have not even had preliminary military training.

A wave of discontent and some disorderliness have been observed among the occupation units in Karabakh. A violent clash took place in Karmirgyukh between the occupation elements affiliated with two political parties in Armenia. Several of them were killed. Azerbaijan's defense units have reportedly approached the heights near Kelbadzhar that are held by the Armenian occupiers.

Community Representatives Send Butrus-Ghali 'Cry for Help'

PM1702163194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Feb 94 p 2

[Correspondent Zaur Kadymbekov report: "Cry for Help"]

[Text] Baku—Representatives of 80 nationalities living in Azerbaijan—Russians, Ukrainians, Lezghians, and Azerbaijanis—including academics, peasants, workers, and people from the world of the arts, have sent a letter to UN Secretary General B. Butrus-Ghali. Their appeal reminds the international community and all well-disposed people of the need to expedite the withdrawal of Armenian troops from inhabited localities they seized earlier to a point beyond the sovereign state's borders. This step, in their opinion, could halt the six-year bloody conflict, save thousands of lives, and facilitate the start of peace talks.

The immediate reason for sending the message is the upcoming second anniversary of the Khodzhaly tragedy, a tragedy in which hundreds of peaceful inhabitants—the children, women, and old men of this Azerbaijani village in Nagorno-Karabakh—became victims of a barbaric act.

Subsequently, again outside the borders of Nagorno-Karabakh, another seven Azerbaijani rayons which are not disputed by the two sides were seized. Consequently, over one million people have become refugees on their own land. Their situation during these snowy winter days has deteriorated even further: Many are seeking shelter in cities of tents where cold and hunger are taking their toll. Their cry for help, the authors of the message to the UN secretary general believe, should also be heeded by world public opinion.

Baku Television, BBC To Sign Program Exchange Protocol

NC1702205994 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Lately, the Azerbaijani Television and Radio Broadcasting Company has been broadening its ties with numerous foreign television companies.

A delegation led by Andrew (Tayce), the head of the department for European broadcasts at the BBC, is currently visiting the Republic's national television company to exchange views on cooperation.

Babesk Mamedov, head of the Azerbaijani Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, and (Tayce) were expected to sign a protocol of intent today on launching a cooperation program between the companies of both countries.

The protocol envisages agreements on broadcasting BBC programs on the Republic's radio and Azerbaijani radio programs on BBC radio.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Views Ways to Economic Recovery

AU1702165294 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 11 Feb 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "In the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers. The Aim: To Bring Georgia Out of the Crisis!"]

[Text] An extended session of the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers on 9 February was devoted to implementing an anticrisis program, outlining ways of reviving the economy, conducting a correct credit and monetary policy, strengthening the coupon's exchange rate, developing the private sector, and reviving the nation spiritually.

Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia delivered a report "on the Basic Results of the Functioning of the Economy in 1993 and on Immediate Tasks." The report delivered by Tamaz Chikvaidze, first deputy minister of the economy, was devoted to macroeconomic stability in the republic, an anticrisis program of systematic changes, and the first indicative plan for the country's socioeconomic development. This was then followed by a debate.

The speakers and the various participants in the debate, including ministers from various departments, the heads of institutes and large enterprises, rayon gamgebelis [administrative board chairmen], bank employees, and representatives from the private sector, pointed out that, in spite of the important measures that had been implemented in 1993 to regulate and reform economic life in the Republic of Georgia, it had not been possible to activate factors aimed at stabilizing the economy or to reverse the trend toward a deepening of the crisis and the

shortages of electricity and other resources. With the conditions of serious and, to a certain extent, chaotic economic processes currently prevailing, the effectiveness of laws and legislative acts that have already been adopted, as well as credit, monetary, taxation, and financial mechanisms, is extremely low. A significant part of the republic's economic potential has been excluded from economic life.

In terms of 1993 prices, the total GDP amounted to 1,878 billion coupons, which is only 54 percent of that of the previous year. There was a reduction of 46.3 percent in gross national income, which fell to the level of 1964.

With the credit, monetary, and financial systems on the brink of almost total collapse, it was not possible last year to ratify the budget while the rate of devaluation of the temporary currency—the coupon—exceeded the most pessimistic forecasts and turned into hyperinflation. Along with objective factors that have deep roots, this state of affairs was due to the fact that it had not been possible to implement measures aimed at stabilizing the coupon's rate of exchange in time.

The speakers emphasized that one of the main reasons for inflation was the universal shortages on the consumer market. It was necessary, in a short period of time, to regulate the question of stocktaking in respect of all trade and implement measures aimed at saturating the consumer market with goods and services.

It is significant that all the speakers tried to give a thorough analysis of current processes in their individual sector and outline concrete proposals and measures aimed at extricating Georgia from the crisis.

A speech was delivered at the session by **Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian parliament-head of state.**

He said: "It is impossible to draw up a universal program. This program is the result of serious work carried out by many collectives over one year. At the moment, we are short of skills [kvalipikatsia] and experience. It is necessary for us to study together not only work but also new thinking.

"In the situation that has taken shape, we have to draw one most important conclusion: We should refrain from the sickly politicization of society as this will hurl us toward painful anarchy.

"As regards the program for bringing the country out of the crisis—it makes no difference whether we call its variants pessimistic or optimistic, minimalist or maximalist—the main thing is for us not to be skeptical, as there exist the preconditions for escaping from the crisis and positive shifts enabling us to begin an economic recovery.

"The main thing," said Eduard Shevardnadze, "is that Georgia avoids isolation and has the initial basis for extricating itself from the crisis. Emerging from its isolation will contribute to the restoration of economic ties. At the same time, we should not forget that the economy should be controlled."

Then, the head of state touched upon the development of the private sector: "It is necessary to open the way for businessmen and to help and support them, not brandish our swords at them. The state should be the instrument that manages the economy and struggles against chaos [stikiuroba]. We speak a lot about liberalization and do the opposite. Wages should increase along with prices.

"It is still not too late to halt the struggle for the Russian market. We should bring Georgian tea and Georgian wine onto the consumer market as quickly as possible; otherwise, if we delay, nothing will help this situation. Georgia has adopted the status of a developing country. This factor will contribute to the restoration of the economy but our country must tread this path quickly and within a short period of time. We should not be afraid of elements of planning being inserted into branch programs; all plans should work for the interests of the state.

Our relations with the IMF and the World Bank will open up new horizons and broad paths. We have to try to get the European Community to finance our programs. In order to do this, we have to acquire the reputation of a reliable partner. However, no single businessman or investor will come to Georgia until the country resembles a country and there is stability."

Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Eduard Shevardnadze touched upon the size of military expenditure. He said: "If necessary, we will give our right arms, but everything has to be legalized and decreed by the state; a military budget has to be determined that will maintain the army."

The head of state devoted significant attention to measures aimed at strengthening the coupon. "It was a mistake to introduce the coupon. Unless the economy is activated, it is impossible to strengthen it. It is probably necessary to have a parallel currency; otherwise what we have on the market today will also disappear. We cannot post a policeman at every stall. As for joining the ruble zone, the door is not yet open. There are many conditions that will have to be studied thoroughly. Working groups are being formed both in Georgia and Russia. We have to organize discussions on trade and hold debates."

Then, Batoni Eduard Shevardnadze spoke about the search for ways to overcome the electricity crisis. "Georgia is a country rich in hydroelectric resources and, therefore, this problem should be resolved in the shortest time.

"It is of great benefit to Georgia that Russia has agreed to supply us with gas.

"The delivery of gas from Turkmenistan is expensive. Therefore, this development will ease our financial situation.

"The use of non-traditional energy signifies inexhaustible sources for us. We should make the sun, wind, small hydroelectric power stations, and so forth serve the economy. It is possible that, with the help of UNESCO, Georgia will become one of the world centers for conducting this research."

He devoted a lot of attention to improving work on the railroads, highways, and waterways.

"The customs system, which represents an inexhaustible source of revenue for our budget, needs to be reorganized.

"In spite of the difficulties of our life, no one should forget that it is essential for us to save our culture and science. The entire nation should concern itself with this."

The extended session of the Cabinet of Ministers adopted the corresponding decrees on the questions discussed.

Gamsakhurdia's Body Moved to Groznyy

LD1702193494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1923 GMT 17 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy February 17 TASS— The dead body of Georgia's former president Zviad Gamsakhurdia was air-lifted today from Western Georgia to the capital of the Chechen Republic in southern Russia.

The corpse was dug up from the grave made under a barn in a remote Georgian village of Djikhaskari, a member of the Chechen delegation who witnessed the exhumation told ITAR-TASS on Thursday.

In conformity with the will of the late president's family, the exhumation was atttended only by official representatives from Georgia, Lithuania, and the russian regions of Chechnya and Ingushetia. No autopsy was made and the commission limited itself to "strictly visual" identification.

Later the body was transfered to the Georgian town of Senaki where it was identified by three Georgian medical scientists.

Gamsakhurdia will be eventually reburied in Groznyy according to the will of his next of kin. The former Georgian president spent the bigger part of his political exile in Russia's break-away Republic of Chechnya after he was toppled in January 1992.

Last autumn, he returned to western Georgia in a bid to restore his presidential status, but his supporters were ousted from Georgia by the army loyal to the existing Tbilisi government of Eduard Shevardnadze.

Gamsakhurdia then reportedly took his life after being cornered by his enemies in a west Georgian village.

Estonia

Minister on Russian Troop Withdrawal 'Priority'

WS1702205694 Tallinn BNS in English 1639 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Tallinn, Feb 17, BNS—Withdrawal of the Russian troops is the priority of Estonia's foreign policy, Foreign Minister Juri Luik said before the parliament today.

He said it was vital for Estonia to reach a situation when an attack against the country would be as impossible as, for instance, against Austria.

The minister expressed his concern about a virtual stoppage in the pullout of Russian troops from the country in the past weeks. He said about 2,500 Russian military were still remaining on the Estonian territory.

Addressing a parliament meeting that discussed Estonia's foreign political concept, Luik said the country needed a boost in its political activity toward the East. He said it was possible that "people who have successfully managed in the West will have to change their jobs and start working in the East." Luik said Estonia was not viewing the CIS as a "faceless and weak-willed union of states." He said visits by high-ranking Estonian officials to countries of the CIS are due soon. Estonian President Lennart Meri is to visit Ukraine in the near future, he said.

"It is important to mention that the European Union [EU] views the Baltic states as potential members of their union," Luik said. He didn't rule out the possibility that Estonia may become a member of the EU still before the end of the century.

The foreign minister mentioned Toomas Tiivel as the country's new ambassador to Latvia. He also expressed the hope that Latvia would send its ambassador to Estonia soon.

Tiit Made of the opposition Entrepreneurs Party at today's discussion characterized the country's foreign policy in the past year as "toothless, unprofessional and inept."

The former foreign minister, MP Trivimi Velliste, in his remarks said that if "in the foreign policy of Finland one speaks of a Paasikivi-Kekkonen line, in the case of Estonia a line of Meri-Manitski-Luik can be spoken about, which is a straight."

Also speaking before the MP's today was the chairman of the parliament's Foreign Affairs Commission, Vello Saatpalu.

Defense Commission Demands Israel Remove 'Unusable Weapons'

LD1702200594 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] The parliamentary state defense commission thinks that the Defense Ministry must be advised to demand that the Israeli TAAS Israeli Industries Limited firm should remove the unusable weapons and ammunition which it had recently sent to Estonia from the territory of Estonia at its own expense. This is based on certificates of inspection issued by the defense forces headquarters on 1 and 16 February. The Riigikogu state defense commission cannot accept the defective weapons which arrived as part of the arms deal, as a gift to the Republic of Estonia. This is what a statement says, signed by both Rein Helme, chairman of the Riigikogu state defense commission, and his deputy Peeter Lorents. The statement was released after the commission's closed sitting today. The sitting heard explanations from Foreign Minister Juri Luik, Defense Minister Indrek Kannik, and Defense Forces Commander Aleksandr Einseln and discussed assessments made by experts at the defense forces' headquarters. State Secretary Ulo Kaevats had provided his explanations in writing.

The Estonian Government concluded an arms deal with TAAS Israeli Industries Ltd on 7 January of last year and the Riigikogu ratified it on 15 December. According to the agreement, the TAAS firm pledges to sell to Estonia various defense products and services. The arms deal contract stipulates that the Israeli TAAS firm guarantees the reliability of the products and effectiveness of materials. The total arms deal amounts to over 49 million U.S. dollars, over 680 million Estonian kroons, and Estonia is to pay this amount in (?eight) installments.

Latvia

Talks With Russia End; No Agreements Signed

LD1702151294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1252 GMT 17 Feb 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[Text] Jurmala, February 17 (TASS)—The expected signing of the first treaty on the withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia has not taken place. Not a single of the four agreements under discussion has been signed at the Latvian-Russian talks which ended in Jurmala today. The next round of talks is scheduled for February 28.

Commenting on the results of the talks, Martins Virsis, head of the Latvian delegation, said that the two sides did not agree in views on three issues: The size of rent for the radio location station in Skrunda, the number of its personnel and the status of military pensioners.

Head of the Russian delegation Sergey Zotov noted that he was satisfied with the assurances given by Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs today that Latvia does not intend to restrict rights of military pensioners.

According to Russian Ambassador to Latvia Aleksandr Rannikh "the difficulties which arose at the talks, account for the complex internal political situation in Latvia. Failure to sign the treaty is disadvantageous for both sides, but much more for Latvia as it would be better if the radar worked within the framework of an agreement but not without it".

Saeima Chairman Says No Plan To Isolate Russia

WS1702152994 Tallinn BNS in English 0954 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Riga, Feb 17, BNS—Latvia does not target isolation of Russia by setting sights on integration into Europe, Saeima (parliament) Chairman Anatolijs Gorbunovs told British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd Wednesday [16 February].

On the contrary, Latvia endorses Russia's participation in various European institutions to manifest its understanding of partnership and responsibility for the current processes, said Gorbunovs.

The anticipated citizenship law should provide a gradual growth of the body of citizens, said the Saeima speaker. If naturalization of non-citizens is too swift, the motion will bring on a great political counterreaction by ethnic Latvians.

Hurd noted that political instability could also be provoked by a vague status of a large group of population.

Gorbunovs agreed that the status of people who are not entitled for immediate naturalization should be politically and economically balanced.

As reported, Hurd met Wednesday with the Baltic foreign ministers and high-ranking Latvian officials.

Envoy to Russia Interviewed on Relations

WS1702185394 Tallinn BNS in English 1402 GMT 17 Feb 94

[Text] Riga, Feb 17, BNS—BNS interviewed the Latvian ambassador to Russia, Janis Peters, on the atmosphere in Russia in view of relations with Latvia.

Q. Are Russian residents interested in the interstate talks between Latvia and Russia?

A. I have always said that Russia thinks about Latvia far less than Latvia ('hinks) about Russia. We here (in Moscow) sometimes think that it is time for Russia to consider Latvian developments. I think, Latvian developments occupy a tiny proportion in Russia's consciousness. But, if we speak about the official Moscow, about the Russian Government, I think, that it is topical for Russia to settle relations with Latvia. The political forces in power missed in elections the moment of patriotism. I mean Russia's Choice. They had the chance, but they underestimated it and, consequently, the theme of patriotism was stolen from them by powers represented by Zhirinovskiy. (...) Now, many, including the foreign minister and many other political forces, moderate forces, democratic forces, are trying to outrun Zhirinovskiy but they cannot afford to use Zhirinovskiy's lexicon. The common Russian, the tired Russian, the humiliated Russian is forced to side with extremist views, with extremist slogans at least to set himself at ease. The Russian Government, in this case, faces a very serious challenge, including what regards relations with Latvia. That's why we can observe this very fierce attack on the Latvian legislation, the Latvian reality. Consequently, I think, that it is also important for Russia to settle relations with Latvia in the eyes of the international community. But Russia itself lacks a real understanding and concept as to what is, in fact, going on in Latvia. I think, they (Russian leaders) sometimes have not the time to go deep into Latvian processes.

Q. How much significance does Russia attach to the speculation by certain political forces with human rights problems in Latvia?

A. It is important but, what is interesting, the Russian propaganda speaks about the alleged human right infringements in Latvia in a very generalizing and abstract manner. In fact, no concrete cases are being cited. We watched a television broadcast, Voskresenije, last Sunday [13 February], in which the topics were highly invented. We must require Russia to name concrete cases, a list of human rights violations, then we will be able to answer. Presently, I think, the influence is not great, but it is so only on the one hand. On the other hand, all political forces in Russia regret the collapse of the Soviet Union. Even very democratically disposed people (are among them) because the dream about a good union still lives and is, maybe, haunting almost every Russian resident. These people would allot the Baltics the role of some kind of an associated member (in the dream union). The thought that the Baltics are on the Russian soil is alive in their (Russian people) consciousness. This makes it difficult to estimate the influence of these allegations but they are unlikely to seriously endanger Latvia.

Q. How to explain similar attitudes of Russian political forces?

A. The democratic forces would like to form a new union. You know the processes connected with the setup of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Boris Yeltsin openly declared that Russia had a specific mission and task to create the CIS, that Russia is the number one amid equals. We perceive it with concern. We, being a small country, can criticize and reject the idea but for Russians a great power means something positive, a good life for everybody, an integrated economy. We should take this into account that in the world there are different unions, disintegrated unions, existing unions and it is nothing censurable. But this concrete model, a union with the enormous Russia, would not work, history has proved it. Too different are the numerical characters of the nations, the traditions, the economic showings, development and infrastructures. We think this is evidently incompatible but many Russians think it could work. It may turn into a kind of historic polemics. God save it from turning into a war. We should thank late Academician Andrei Sakharov, may he rest at peace, for his great contribution to the development of democracy in the former Soviet Union. But even he did not forsee in his constitution of European and Asian nations the collapse of the Union. What he had was a sweet illusion about a splendid union. This sweet illusion apparently lives in the minds of Russians and we have to prove them that we can live as an independent country. Russians do not believe in it yet because they have been brought up differently. I think, that, frankly speaking, Latvians also do not fully believe in it.